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THE TIMES

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50p

Vigil in the mist: Home Counties horse owners mount a 24-hour guard against attacks



Keeping watch: a Hampshire woman who will let her horses into the fields only when she is around to protect them from the mutilators. Some people have moved horses to other counties for safety

Children given 'stay in' warning

BY LIN JENKINS
CHILDREN are sleeping alongside their ponies and vigilante groups are running night patrols as frustration grows over the series of sexual attacks on horses in the Home Counties.
Parents have discovered girls as young as seven missing from their beds after they have sneaked out to check on ponies in remote fields and stables. Angie Johnson, co-ordinator of the south coast branch of Horsewatch, has joined police in advising parents to keep their children under lock and key.
"I have had calls from parents whose seven-year-olds have disappeared at two in the morning. Others say their teenage daughters are sleeping in barns to be near the horses, and taking along their boyfriends with flick knives in case they meet an intruder. It is really getting out of proportion. Parents must keep their children at home," she said, adding that adults should accompany children on visits to isolated fields and stables.
Throughout rural Hampshire, where most of the attacks have taken place, riding schools and livery yards have increased security. Sensor lights are sold out in some areas, and many yards now ensure a groom lives on site.
More than 1,200 people have telephoned the police to give information to Operation Mountbatten. Police believe from the methods used and from information received that three different people are responsible for the attacks in the county. They have no reason to believe that they are working together, or are members of a cult.
Reports of horses having names and tails cut, both in.

Portillo turns screw on public spending

BY JILL SHERMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE toughest scrutiny of public spending for more than a decade has been ordered by John Major in an effort to stop public borrowing spiralling out of control.
The Treasury will announce next week that all departments are to be subjected to a rigorous review in a four-year rolling programme to pinpoint areas where state support may no longer be needed.
Michael Portillo, Treasury chief secretary, will ask key Whitehall departments to examine their entire spending programmes in the short and longer term. Initially he will tackle three to five departments, including the £80 billion social security budget which accounts for a third of public spending. Defence is also expected to be one of the first to come under scrutiny.
Mr Portillo will also look at whether spending can be better targeted. He will examine, for example, areas where the private sector can subsidise projects such as road building

No corner of Whitehall spending will escape the scrutiny of the most extensive audit of government spending to date. The results could affect policy decisions for decades

and pensions — social security sources have floated the idea of encouraging people to opt out of state retirement pensions — or take over Jobcentres. "There is no reason why Brook Street Bureau could not take over the role of Jobcentres," an official said.
Initial findings will be used to influence the public spending round this year, but the Treasury made clear yesterday that the chief secretary would use the exercise as the base for a much longer-term strategy, which could change the shape of public spending. "He will be looking to see if expenditure in certain areas has outlived its purpose." Although the review will be completed by the next election, it will influence policy decisions that could have their impact 20 years ahead, such as equalising pension ages and building schools.
The Labour party warned Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, not to break election pledges on spending in key areas such as health and welfare benefits. Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, said last night: "Ministers cannot tear up yet more election pledges without a wave of anger throughout the country

re-examine long-term trends in expenditure. If we are to sustain sound public finance and make progress towards our goals of lower personal taxation, we must keep firm control of inflation and take a rigorous approach to public spending."
A decision to examine spending departments in turn was taken in principle by the cabinet last May, before last year's spending round. Mr Portillo's lenient approach to the social security department last autumn may well have been a signal that a radical streamlining of the government's highest spending department was on the way.
Although Peter Lilley, the social security secretary, has insisted recently that it is difficult to curb benefit payments during a recession, Treasury advisers feel that the government has no other option. Child benefit, retirement pensions, unemployment benefit and disability benefits will all be reviewed.
Many members of the cabinet feel that universal benefits are no longer sustainable and there have been calls for taxing or means-testing child benefit.
Mr Lilley is known to be concentrating on pension reforms. Although he has focused so far on equalising pension ages, he is said to be reviewing additional pension payments to the over-65s and curbing tax allowances for pensioners.
Leading article, page 15



Major asks magazines for cash

BY RICHARD FORD AND PHILIP WEBSTER
JOHN Major is demanding "substantial" compensation from the *New Statesman* and *Society and Scallywag* magazines over articles linking him with Clare Latimer, the Westminster caterer.
The prime minister's lawyers, Biddle and Co, signalled his intention to pursue his legal actions when they said yesterday that a letter to Mr Major, reprinted in this week's edition, did not go far enough. The magazine responded that it was disappointed, and repeated its appeal for an end to the "brought to an end as speedily as it has been commenced". It faces legal bills estimated at over £25,000.
A spokesman for Biddle and Co said: "The litigation continues until the *New Statesman* and the other defendants take a realistic view of the matter."
Lawyers for both magazines have received letters from the prime minister's solicitors demanding compensation.

Clinton seeks own envoy to rework Bosnia settlement

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE Clinton administration is considering appointing a special envoy to gauge whether the UN peace plan for Bosnia can be renegotiated into an acceptable form.
White House officials said that the idea would be to "build upon" the plan developed by Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance, the EC and UN mediators, which divides Bosnia-Herzegovina into 10 semi-autonomous provinces. The US wants to eliminate the territorial gains the present plan awards to the Serbs, so that they are not rewarded for their "ethnic cleansing".
President Clinton said last night that the US remained reluctant to support the Vance-Owen plan and hoped Russia would join efforts to work out a more acceptable plan. "I applaud the effort... (but) the United States at the present is reluctant to impose an agreement on the parties to which they do not agree," he said.
European governments are sceptical that the Vance-Owen plan could be reworked without it all unravelling, but one US official said that "by putting our clout and prestige behind that effort it may make it possible to bring the parties to the table... through fairly aggressive diplomacy."
The administration is also considering ways of coercing the Serbians into acceptance. One leading option is to tighten existing sanctions against the Serbs, or to seek to persuade the UN Security Council to impose extra ones.
Its abandonment of military options represents a significant retreat by Mr Clinton, who had rebuked President Bush during the election campaign for not making bolder efforts to end the fighting.
Sarajevo looks to US, page 12
Leading article, page 15

King grounds himself after 'crowning achievement'



BRITISH Airways yesterday appointed Sir Colin Marshall as its new chairman as Lord King stepped down "to remove uncertainty and speculation about the future leadership" of the world's most successful airline.
There was no mention of Richard Branson or his airline, Virgin Atlantic, nor of the £610,000 libel damages which BA had agreed to pay after allegations of "dirty tricks". Lord King turned angrily on a questioner who asked if the two were linked. "No — madam," he snapped. He insisted the board meeting had been "a very happy occasion". Later he said: "To have been chairman of British Airways during these last twelve memorable years I regard as the crowning achievement of my working life."

Sir Colin, 59, retains responsibility for many key departments including finance, a decision which is unlikely to remove concern in the City that he should not have joint powers. But Robert Ayling, the commercial and operations director, becomes group managing director with responsibility for "the greater part of the business day-to-day".
Lord King is to become the first president of BA for an initial three-year term. Sir Michael Angus will become non-executive deputy chairman and act as a "watchdog" to ensure that "the board operates in the best interest of shareholders and in compliance with the Cadbury code of best practice".
David Burnside, the controversial director of public affairs, is leaving. BA said yesterday that, like Lord King, he had intended to step down in July but had decided to bring forward his departure to pursue an independent career.
As Lord King left London in his Bentley with his wife Isabelle after the board meeting, Richard Branson wished him well in his retirement.
John Prescott, the shadow transport secretary, attacked the shake-up as "an astounding decision by the BA board, which has promoted the principal officers who have acknowledged the company's responsibility for disreputable and illegal activities against a competitor airline".
Thatcher's Icarus, page 3
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THE PEOPLE WITH CAPITAL IDEAS

61 will lose jobs in nationwide shake-up of Conservative party offices

Tories launch cash drive to make up soaring £19m deficit

By PETER RIDDELL
AND ANDREW PIERCE

THE Conservative party will have to raise £40-£50 million from business and individual supporters over the next few years to pay off its soaring deficit and to finance the next election campaign.

Sir Norman Fowler, the party chairman, admitted yesterday that the Tories would have to raise a record amount over the next three to four years to eliminate a cumulative deficit expected to peak at £19 million next month.

This unprecedented fundraising is in addition to a big cost-cutting exercise, part of the largest shake-up in the party organisation for decades. Central and area staff are being cut by more than a fifth, including 42 compulsory redundancies by the year's end.

Sir Norman dampened speculation that he might return to the cabinet in the expected summer reshuffle by saying that he wanted to "see through these important and fundamental reforms".

He would not say whether he would be staying at Central Office until the next election. Tory fund-raising is to be reorganised completely and new appeals to industry and individual donors will accompany a drive to raise party membership, now estimated at only "half a million-plus".

Altogether, sixty-one Conservative party workers will lose their jobs only 10 months after helping John Major secure an historic fourth general election victory. They include Patrick O'Sullivan, 58, a messenger who started work at Central Office under Harold Macmillan, and a school-leaver who had joined in the golden era of Mrs Thatcher.

The Tories' coffers are empty, loyal party workers are being laid off, and membership is down. Sir Norman Fowler has an uphill task to raise a record amount over the next three to four years, reform the party structure and restore morale.

The shake-up, the biggest for 60 years, is designed to keep spending under control as the party tries to live with a £19 million deficit. The redundancies, 42 of them compulsory, will be divided between the party's headquarters in London, and the 10 regional offices, first established in the 1930s under Stanley Baldwin, which are being slimmed down to six.

Mr Fowler, the party chairman, told them in January that the party's debts were much higher than first feared, and that 60 jobs would have to disappear. Those on the hit list were called in individually on Thursday to be told their fate. The official announcement was yesterday.

Many of the workers clearing their desks were in tears. Others had already gone; they could not face the staff meeting yesterday morning with Sir Norman and Mr Paul Judge, the new director general. Both men were heard in silence and only a handful of questions were asked at the end of the hour-long meeting.

The most senior casualty was Martin Graham, deputy director of the party's research department, who was responsible for briefing MPs and ministers on economic policy throughout the general election campaign.

Colleagues of Mr Graham were upset that, despite his seniority, neither Sir Norman nor Mr Judge broke the news to him. He said: "I was told by the research director and the personnel officer. It's all a bit of a surprise. I don't think it will do my career prospects any good to talk about it."

Mr Graham has no job to go to. At the meeting, which was held behind closed doors, Sir Norman talked about the great loyalty of the staff. "I very much regret that we have to make these redundancies. But this team will take us forward," he said.

The team he was talking about was already at Southend for the Young Conservatives conference, which opens today. Or at least part of the team was. Only hours before the Central Office bus set off for Southend, Philip Trotter, 23, part of the presentation team, who had been told he was being made redundant. Yesterday he was still too upset to talk about it. "He is choked," said one of his colleagues.

But still working hard on making the conference a success. At a press conference, Sir Norman said: "These reforms, taken together, open a new chapter for the Conservative Party. They will be the foundation for continuing electoral success well into the 21st century."

However, for Mr Sullivan, it was "the worst day I have known. I started here in the days of Macmillan, which were the golden days of the party. You never think it will happen to you. I thought I would be able to go on until I was 65. I was surprised and very sorry. It's a bitter day. People are clearing their desks. They are crying. There has been a lot of tears."

He hopes the reorganisation of Central Office on a more businesslike footing and on a sound financial basis — being seen to use resources efficiently — will convince supporters to make donations. The party will, however, have to tap new sources of new revenue to achieve its aims. Tory supporters will have to get used to repeated begging letters.

Sir Norman announced yesterday that he enjoyed his present post more than his various cabinet jobs and said he wanted to stick with it to see through these "important and fundamental reforms". He was predictably coy about how long this might be. The implication is that his term will last beyond the expected summer cabinet reshuffle but not necessarily until the next election. He wants to be one of the few chairmen who makes a lasting impact on the Tory party.

PETER RIDDELL



'Regretful redundancies': Sir Norman Fowler at Central Office yesterday

Shrinking party membership brings threat of more begging letters

British politics is increasingly an activity for a small minority of enthusiasts. The most striking announcement yesterday was not about the redundancies among party staff or the reorganisation at Conservative Central Office but his admission that the party had only "half a million plus" members.

This is a rough estimate since there are no national records. But until recently party chairmen have talked, or rather guessed, that the total was one million.

The latest Tory figure is still twice that of individual Labour members. However, between them, Britain's three main parties now have well under one million members. The public is much more interested in voluntary work or the National Trust than making a political commitment and the trend poses increasing financial difficulties for the parties.

The core of Sir Norman's announcement was financial.

The combination of the spending binge under Kenneth Baker's chairmanship and the long pre-election campaign are primarily responsible for a cumulative deficit expected to peak at £19 million next month.

Yesterday's cuts will merely ensure that the party lives within its income, reducing spending in real terms to its lowest level since 1979. The measures will not deal with the current deficit or the extra money the Tories will need to fight the next election. Sir Norman estimates the party will have to raise £40 million to £50 million over the next three or four years.

That would be a formidable task at any stage, but is doubly so now, when many businessmen are disillusioned with the Tories and the pattern of fund-raising has changed. Payments by local constituencies now account for a tenth of total central

income compared with almost a third in the past. The party aims to increase the proportion and will also launch a membership drive.

The Tories face the further, largely under-appreciated problem — contributions from large public companies have been stagnant. As Michael Pinto-Duschinsky, the leading British authority on party finances, has said, this has made the Tories more dependent on large donations from individuals, such as a reported £2 million from John Laish, the Greek shipping owner. That also partly reflects the party's failure to develop more fully direct mail fundraising techniques used so extensively in America.

Sir Norman yesterday also announced big changes in the party's fund-raising efforts with a new board of party treasurers of leading figures mainly from business and

industry, and a new chairman of appeals. He hopes the reorganisation of Central Office on a more businesslike footing and on a sound financial basis — being seen to use resources efficiently — will convince supporters to make donations. The party will, however, have to tap new sources of new revenue to achieve its aims. Tory supporters will have to get used to repeated begging letters.

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PETER RIDDELL

Tories to rebel over leasehold sales bill

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

AN INTERNAL battle will be waged within the Conservative party next week over government legislation to compel landlords to sell their properties to leasehold tenants.

Tory MPs with large numbers of leaseholders in their constituencies want to extend the right to buy to as many tenants as possible. On the other side, a group of senior backbenchers will challenge the proposals.

"Legalised" that will break up historic estates. With ministers caught in the middle, the fate of amendments to the housing and urban development bill on Tuesday and Wednesday could depend on the votes of Labour and other parties.

The bill has led the Duke of Westminster, who could be forced to sell thousands of flats in central London, to stop his donations to the Conservative party. Whips predict that the toughest fight will be in the

Lords. Opponents will argue for landlords to be paid at least the market rate and second homes to be exempted.

The landlords' lobby is considering a legal challenge to try to bar lease-holding MPs from voting on legislation that could bring them a windfall.

Sir Jerry Wiggin (C, West-on-super-Mare) said: "There are leaseholders standing to make hundreds of thousands of pounds out of this. One talks about dukes, companies and charities, but there are many individuals who will be deprived of their property."

He predicted that about 750,000 flats will be affected with the great London estates likely to disappear.

Opposing this group are Tory MPs such as Dudley Fishburn (Kensington), Sir John Wheeler (Westminster North) and Nigel Waterson (Eastbourne) who want to extend the proposals to include flats with high ground rents.

Stuntman killed on BBC film shoot

The world-renowned stuntman Tip Tipping plunged to his death yesterday while filming a reconstruction of the real-life escape of a parachutist who became entangled with a light aircraft. He was taking part in an episode of the BBC1 series 999 in a remote area of Northumberland.

Mr Tipping, from Cobham, Surrey, was due to become a father for the first time soon and would have celebrated his 35th birthday next week. He had appeared in James Bond and Indiana Jones films as well as television shows such as *Bergerac* and *Inspector Morse*. Northumbria police said it appeared that his parachute had failed to open.

A joint investigation by the police and the Parachute Standards Association has been launched. The BBC has also established an enquiry. Ronald Neil, managing director of regional broadcasting, said: "I am deeply shocked by this news. It is a matter of great sadness and the BBC will investigate the cause urgently and in detail."

Police pay saboteurs

Solicitors acting for 28 hunt saboteurs disclosed last night that Sussex police had agreed to pay an out of court settlement of £16,200 for wrongful arrest. A spokesman for Sussex police at Lewes confirmed the payment. The saboteurs were suing Sir Roger Birch, the chief constable of Sussex, for damages after police decided to drop charges of threatening behaviour following arrests at meets of the Chiddingfold, Leonfield and Cowdray hunt at various locations in West Sussex since September 1990. Simon Wild, 34, of Chichester, said he was likely to receive £1,200, and that the other men and women would each get about £600.

Heritage plan dropped

English Heritage has effectively withdrawn its plans to hand over control of London's 30,000 historic buildings to borough councils. Instead, it will for the time being give "flexible authorisation" to those councils it considers qualified to make decisions about the buildings. Proposals to abandon the powers that it inherited from the former Greater London Council were strongly opposed after their publication last November. Sir Hugh Cubitt, chairman of English Heritage's London advisory committee, said that it proposed to retain its full powers of direction until each London borough established the competence on the conservation of historic buildings to make it unnecessary.

Attacked woman dies

Police launched a murder hunt last night after an elderly woman found battered in a park lost her fight for life. Josephine Bridges, 79, a spinster, had been on a life support machine since being found lying unconscious on Monday after going out for an afternoon stroll. She had been attacked and suffered a severe head injury at the cliff-top Victoria Gardens in Broadstairs, Kent. Police have questioned a 17-year-old youth and held him in custody for 24 hours but he was released yesterday without charge.

Brightman pulls out

Sarah Brightman, right, has pulled out of the production of *Trelawny of the Wells* at the Richmond Theatre, southwest London, because of an eye injury. Miss Brightman has a scratched pupil and has been told by doctors not to expose it to theatre lights. She hopes to rejoin the cast next week when it moves to the Theatre Royal, Bath. Her part as Rose Trelawny will be played by Dorcas Morgan.



Granada founder dies

Lord Bernstein of Leigh, the founder of Granada Television, died early yesterday at the age of 94. David Bernstein, one of Lord Bernstein's three children, said his father had died peacefully at his home in central London. A lifelong socialist and member of the Labour party who was made a life peer in 1969, Lord Bernstein established the Granada cinema chain before moving into independent television at its outset.

Obituary, page 17

Leyland workers march

Leyland DAF workers and their supporters yesterday marched in a show of strength to try to save the company's threatened UK plants. About 4,000 people joined the march from the assembly plant in Leyland, Lancashire, to a rally, bringing the town to a standstill. Unions are seeking government intervention. Funding talks, page 19

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Coastal ban on tankers is welcomed

By MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE
CORRESPONDENT

ENVIRONMENTALISTS yesterday welcomed the voluntary agreement by oil tanker companies to avoid routes close to ecologically sensitive parts of the British coastline, but said the use of such sea lanes should be banned.

Greenpeace said it expected the government to press for an enforceable ban at the annual meeting of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) in the autumn. The Earl of Cairness, the shipping minister, told the House of Lords on Thursday night that the main national and international oil companies had undertaken to avoid a number of sensitive routes, including the Fair Isle Strait, the 22-mile channel between Fair Isle and the Shetland Islands, where the *Brer* came to grief in rough seas last month.

The voluntary code was agreed between transport department officials and representatives of oil companies, tanker operators and other shipping interests under the chairmanship of Robin Bradley, the surveyor general.

Major's lawyers seek cash compensation

Continued from page 1 manding "payment of a substantial sum as compensation and to vindicate his reputation". The letters also said that he required an apology in a position of equal prominence; a joint statement in terms to be agreed; an undertaking not to repeat the libel; and payment of his costs.

The announcement that the letter did not go far enough caused surprise at Westminster, where many MPs thought Mr Major would accept the magazine's regret. It leaves open the possibility that he could become the first prime minister to appear as a witness in a libel case.

Mr Major has told colleagues he is determined to nail the rumours about his private life once and for all. It is clear he is looking for a complete retraction. The letter expressed regret at any distress caused by an article linking Mr Major and Clare Latimer, aged 41, but did not contain the word apology.

The *New Statesman* said it was surprised that its view had been seen as unrealistic. "We have communicated, to an audience wider by millions than the readership of the *NSS*, our sincere regret at any distress caused and our unconditional offer to join in any

further public statements vindicating the Prime Minister's reputation that he may require," it said. "That offer remains open."

The published letter said the magazine "very much regret that the prime minister and his family and Ms Latimer and her family have been caused any personal distress. They further very much regret that the article is perceived by the prime minister and Ms Latimer to be defamatory."

The Prime Minister and Ms Latimer both issued writs for libel against the *New Statesman* after the article was published last week. Writs were also issued against another magazine, *Scallywag*, and printers and distributors.

Simon Regan, editor of *Scallywag*, said they had talked to the *New Statesman* yesterday and would meet next week "to compare notes". Yesterday the *Daily Mirror* published a statement after Ms Latimer's solicitor demanded an apology for a "very serious libel". The newspaper said it was sorry its articles gave any impression that there was any substance to "rumours of an affair between Ms Clare Latimer and the prime minister".

Downing Street yesterday declined to comment.

THE SUNDAY TIMES Hollywood versus civilisation

Few still view Hollywood movies as a magical source of uplifting entertainment, romantic inspiration, or even harmless fun. Instead, tens of millions of people now



see the entertainment industry as an all-powerful enemy, an alien force that assaults their most cherished values and corrupts their children. The dream factory has become the poison factory... 9

Michael Medved, in the first exclusive extract from his challenging new book - in *The Sunday Times* tomorrow

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Doctors jailed after prisoner dies from drug cocktail

By IAN MURRAY

TWO police surgeons were jailed yesterday for killing a remand prisoner by heavily over-prescribing drugs.

The doctors prescribed the drugs to the former heroin addict even though they must have known they would damage his heart and lungs, Birmingham Crown Court was told.

Dr Dharendra Saha, 55, of Waltham, near Grimsby, and Dr Chulhum Salim, 55, of Grimsby, had both denied manslaughter but were convicted of reckless or grossly negligent unlawful killing.

Judge Richard Curtis gave Dr Saha the longer sentence of 21 months because he had prescribed the heroin substitute methadone to Graham Rawlinson, 23, in addition to the cocktail of drugs he was already being given shortly before his death. Dr Salim was jailed for 12 months and both were ordered to pay £10,000 towards the £50,000 costs of the six-week trial.

The judge told them: "I do not believe either of you could have properly examined the prisoner. You each behaved with criminal recklessness totally unbecoming of the medical profession."

Peter Birt QC, for the prosecution, said that the prisoner had been transferred from Strangeways prison in Manchester to Grimsby police station in May 1990 after the riots and like roany of the

prisoners from there had been given tranquillisers to calm him. He was prescribed a cocktail of drugs by the two doctors in Grimsby. That had changed him from a "fit, alert and cheerful young man" into a "zombie-like figure" who was seen staggering around the police station with glazed eyes. When his girl friend telephoned him, his speech had been slurred and within ten days of his arrival at Grimsby he had slipped into a coma and had to be taken to hospital.

Mr Birt said that he was sent back to the police cells after leaving hospital. The methadone was prescribed in September and he again slipped into a coma and died soon afterwards.

Defending Dr Saha, Kiernan Coonan QC said his client had received no guidance from anyone. "He was overwhelmed by the demands of manipulative addicts," he said. Robert Smith QC said his client, Dr Salim, faced disciplinary proceedings by the General Medical Council and had been forced to seek retirement.

The Home Office said that "the holding of prisoners in police cells since the Strangeways riots had been a most unwelcome task". It hopes the 119 Strangeways prisoners still in police cells will be back in prison in the next few weeks.



Saha: "Had received no guidance on drugs"



Salim: was forced to seek retirement



Grounded: Lord King, accompanied by Sir Tim Bell, the PR man who also advised Margaret Thatcher, arrives for yesterday's press conference

Wings burnt by Branson's rising sun, Thatcher's Icarus finally falls to earth

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

LORD King of Warnaby was last night heading back to the Leicestershire village whose name he took when he was ennobled in 1983. The 74-year-old must be hoping for a quieter life than the one he has lived since he took over the reins of British Airways at the age of 63.

An inspired maverick who could be ruthless and yet capable of acts of personal kindness, John King was the epitome of Mrs Thatcher's ideal businessman. He was born in west London, the son of a soldier. His mother took in washing and John King learnt very young how to make his own way.

While working in a garage near Guildford, Surrey, during the war he fell for, and

eventually married, the boss's daughter. He was soon running his own engineering works, making military components. As the war ended, he realised that the humble ball-bearing would be in great demand. He acquired a small company that he built up before it was merged, earning him about £10 million.

Directorships poured in and he moved up the social ladder before being knighted in 1979. Two years later, he was offered what seemed the ultimate challenge, the chairmanship of state-owned, inefficient, loss-making British Airways. Mrs Thatcher, with whom he struck up a close working relationship and whom he openly admired,

wanted him to prepare it for privatisation, which he did with astonishing speed.

His methods were draconian. He axed 23,000 staff from the payroll, dropped several routes, got rid of the "wrong" sort of aircraft, swallowed rivals and huddled ministers into giving his new airline a clear run. BA emerged as the world's most efficient and profitable airline.

With Colin, now Sir Colin Marshall, the new chairman, said: "It is fair to say, however, that we won't expect to see him working on anything like a full-time basis."

The airline which had become known as "King's Own" will never be the same. King grounded, page 1 Business profile, page 21

annoyed, then worried, and finally destroyed him. Now, apart from his involvement in countless companies, he will be going back to the life of a rural grandee, shooting, hunting and watching the cricket club he formed play on his private ground near his imposing Leicestershire house. "He will be available to carry out any duties we may request of him," Sir Colin Marshall, the new chairman, said. "It is fair to say, however, that we won't expect to see him working on anything like a full-time basis."

The quagmire of Irish politics could not contain his

ambitions. He worked in a small PR company in London and was then seconded to the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. He was headhunted into the Institute of Directors, where his ruthless drive and lobbying brought him to the attention of John Gummer, then Conservative party chairman.

In 1984, Mr Gummer invited him to join Central Office as deputy director of communications. Instead, he was recommended to Lord King to head his public affairs division in the run up to privatisation.

It seemed Mr Burnside's career could only blossom further. There are those who still believe he will return.

Attacks on horses

Inside the mind of an animal sadist

By LIN JENKINS

VIOLENCE against horses is perpetrated by sadists acting in groups or individuals who may see the animals as evil, according to a former chief psychologist at Broadmoor secure hospital.

Tony Black said people who got a "kick" out of harming

horses, "in the same way as those who delight in child pornography or get involved in covers and do bizarre sexual things in the night", were more likely to operate in groups.

As police believe the latest attacks are the work of one person, he thinks that the culprit is suffering from a

psychiatric disorder and associates horses with evil. Such a person normally focuses on something they are familiar with, which could explain how the attacker is able to get close to horses he does not know and his knowledge of horse anatomy.

The attacks have sickened the public but animal abuse

has a historical background, according to Rev Professor Andrew Linzey, who holds the first fellowship in animals' rights at Oxford University. "People forget that diabolical things were done to animals in the name of exorcising devils. We need to look at this in an historical perspective."

Since Aristotle, the prevailing philosophy was that animals were made for people and belonged to them. He saw a paradox in society whereby cruelty was again on the increase as was revulsion to it.

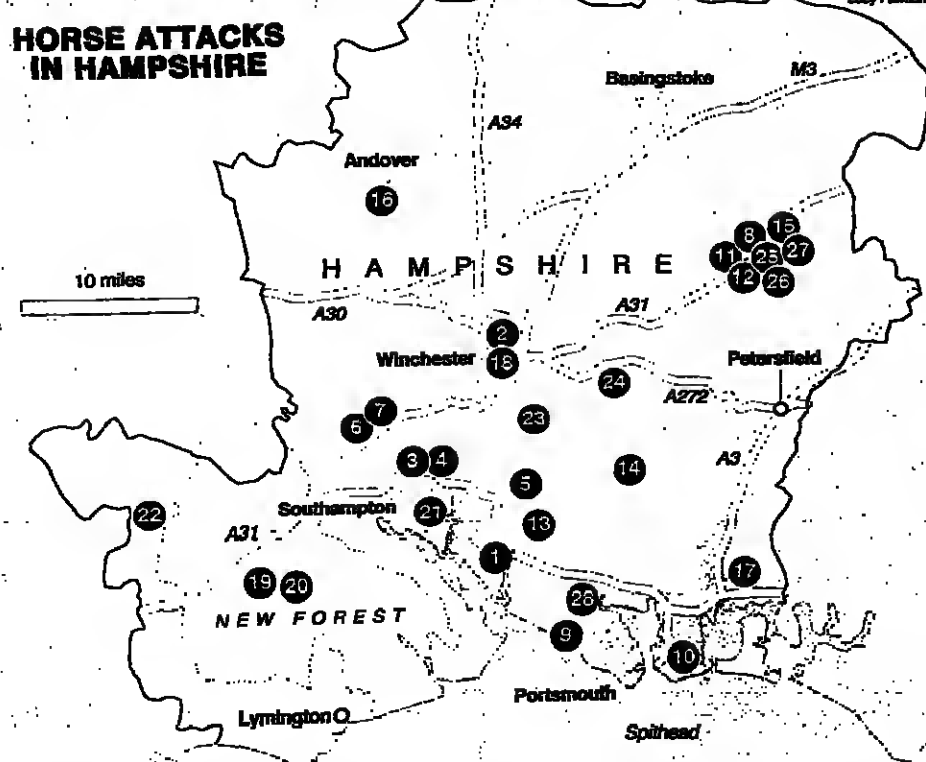
Children told to stay home

Continued from page 1 the New Forest and at Burford, Oxfordshire, are not being linked with the work of those who appear to derive a twisted pleasure from mutilating horses' genitals, sometimes with broom handles, and slicing their hindquarters. Hunt saboteurs are thought to have been responsible for the attack in Burford, where one horse was sprayed with paint and "H SCUM" spelt out on the wall.

A spokesman for Operation Mountbatten, which is named after the mare that died during an attack last month, said: "While the prospect of copycat attacks has to be addressed, we do not believe hunt saboteurs are involved."

The police are restricting their enquiry to attacks over the past three years, though they are known to have gone on for much longer. Some culprits have been apprehended in the past, the last in the county in 1987.

Anita Jones, wife of the former Monkees singer Davy Jones, who had two horses assaulted last year, has moved her dogs nearer the stable yard, removed a two-year-old filly to another county, and increased security. She no longer allows her daughters out alone. "Everybody has to be vigilant. This person or persons need help, and could be a danger to children," she said.



1. Bursledon: Feb 28 1991 Pony Mare attacked in a field - internal bruising and swelling external cuts
2. Winchester: Jun 13 1991 Pony Mare tied up with rope - receives rope burns
3. Chilworth: Aug 14 1991 Palomino Pony Mare assaulted - internal bruising
4. Chilworth: Aug 28 1991 Welsh Cob mare in a stable - cuts to the legs and flanks and internal bruising
5. Dursley: Sep 2 1991 Part bred Palomino Mare attacked in field and beaten around the head with a blunt instrument
6. Romsey: Mar 17 1992 Arab Gelding receives deep cut to the head
7. Romsey: Mar 19 1992 Pony brood mare attacked in a field - attacked with a sharp instrument - internal cuts
8. Alton: May 4 1992 Pony mare assaulted in stable - receives internal injuries from blunt instrument
9. Meon: Jun 13 1992 Shetland Mare attacked with a sharp instrument - internal and external bruising found with wounds to hind leg and internal bruising
10. Portsmouth: Jun 14 1992 Welsh Cob Mare in field found with wounds to hind leg and internal bruising
11. Alton: Jun 22 1992 thoroughbred Cross Gelding stabbed while in a stable - cuts to shoulder from a blunt tapered instrument
12. Alton: Jun 31 1992 Hack Gelding cut cleanly on the shoulder while standing in a field
13. Botley: Jul 13 1992 Shetland Gelding slashed in a field
14. Droxford: Jul 13 1992 thoroughbred Mare attacked in a field - internal bruising
15. Alton: Jul 16 1992 Hack Gelding cut with a sharp instrument
16. Andover: Jul 16 1992 New Forest Mare - internal bruising and lashed with barbed wire
17. Havant: Jul 26 1992 Filding Pony Mare slashed under the tail four times
18. Winchester: Aug 13 1992 Hack Gelding in a stable has rope burns to legs
19. New Forest: Sep 17 1992 New Forest Gelding cut deeply on the nose
20. New Forest: Sep 14 1992 New Forest Mare - burnt with caustic substance
21. Southampton: Oct 15 1992 four riding horses slashed in a field - one had spike stuck in its chest
22. Fordingbridge: Nov 28 1992 pregnant thoroughbred Brood Mare 16 year old - internal injuries, lost foal as a result
23. Oxtedbury: Jan 4 1993 Pony Mare, 20 year old - internal bruising and bruises as she tried to break out of stable
24. Kilmeston: Jan 6 1993 Mare attacked - internal injuries
25. Alton: Jan 7 1993 Pony Mare found bleeding from the rear
26. Alton: Jan 7 1993 Gelding taken from his stable and covered in mud
27. Alton: Jan 22 1993 Mare Mountbatten in stable cuts to genitals - found dead
28. Upham: Feb 3 1993 In foal Mare George Girl assaulted internally

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Tony Bland case prompts review

Lords to hold enquiry into right-to-die laws

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A FULL-SCALE parliamentary enquiry into the ethical and legal issues surrounding right-to-die cases will be announced by Lord Wakeham, leader of the Lords, later this month in the wake of the decision on the Tony Bland case.

A committee of peers will take evidence from medical workers, lawyers, academics and interested groups. Although the terms of reference have not yet been agreed, the enquiry's working title is *Aspects of medical ethics and the criminal law*.

The peers are likely to invite evidence from Allan and Barbara Bland, parents of the victim of the Hillsborough football stadium disaster, and relatives and medical staff who have cared for similar patients.

In an historic ruling on Thursday, the law lords decided that Mr Bland should be allowed to die. The decision to stop his tube-feeding is expected to be taken early next week. Dr Jim Howe, the consultant

caring for him at Airedale General Hospital near Keighley, West Yorkshire, will decide the time in consultation with the parents and other medical staff.

Mr Bland suffered brain damage at Sheffield Wednesday's ground in April 1989. Since then, he has been in a persistent vegetative state from which there is no hope of recovery, according to his doctors. He is expected to die ten to 14 days after the feeding tube is disconnected.

In delivering their ruling, the law lords asked for Parliament to review the law because of the dilemma faced by doctors and relatives when patients are so badly injured that they will never recover but can be kept "alive" by modern medical techniques.

Ministers are likely to rely on the Lords committee's report, expected before the end of the year, as their guide in deciding whether any changes in the law are needed.

The decision to set up a

special Lords committee will keep the enquiry out of the main political arena and take advantage of the expertise in the upper House. A legal heavyweight, possibly a law lord, and a bishop are likely to be on the committee, although the Lords' authorities seem anxious to avoid selecting peers who are known to take a strong moral stance on the issue.

Special enquiries by Lords committees have a good record for dealing with social issues. For example, the report on reducing slightly the time limit for abortions was eventually agreed by both Houses and became law. The recent Jellicoe reform of the Lords committee system opened the way for more ad hoc committees on sensitive but topical issues such as euthanasia.

Lord Wakeham will move a motion within the next fortnight to establish the enquiry. The committee of selection will then pick the members and set the terms of reference.

Comics go for the fruity look

THE annual Comic Relief appeal was launched yesterday, with a departure from its usual symbol of a clown's red nose. Celebrities including the actress Joanna Lumley and the comedian Lenny Henry modelled squashed tomato noses instead. Henry, who launched the first Comic Relief appeal in 1987, said: "We decided all the cheap-skates who didn't want to buy a new nose would have to be fooled."

March 12 has been designated Red Nose day, when people will be encouraged to organise events in aid of the charity. BBC1 will screen a six-hour programme with eight presenters including Lumley, Jonathan Ross, Dawn French and Jennifer Saunders. Lumley will co-ordinate reports on the charity's work in Africa, and the actor and television presenter Angus Deayton will update British projects.

Comic Relief has raised £70 million since its launch. A third of its funds are spent in Britain, with the rest shared between 40 African countries.

Leading article, page 15



Tomato sauce: Joanna Lumley models Comic Relief's tasty new nose yesterday

Rapist, 15 pays £500 to victim

A RAPIST aged 15 walked free from a court yesterday after a judge ordered him to pay £500 to send his young victim on "a good holiday".

Judge Prosser told the youth: "It will give this girl the chance of a good holiday to help her get over the trauma." He thought a custodial sentence would not help the victim or her attacker, who might then mix with people who would teach him "more bad habits".

The youth from Cwmbran, Gwent, raped his classmate on his fifteenth birthday. Newport Crown Court was told. The girl, also 15, was dragged off the school tennis court in a headlock and attacked in woods after he asked for a birthday kiss. She was too frightened to tell her parents but broke down in front of schoolfriends the next day.

The jury returned a unanimous guilty verdict. The youth had pleaded not guilty to rape.

Placing him on probation for three years and ordering him to pay £500 compensation, Judge Prosser told him: "No judge wants to send a boy as young as you into custody, especially as you come from a good and honest family."

Rising sea levels threaten coastal wildlife habitats

By MICHAEL HORNSEY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 33,000 acres of the English shoreline are likely to disappear over the next 20 years through natural and man-made causes if no action is taken, according to an environmental report. The habitats most at risk are the wildlife-rich salt marshes and intertidal mud flats on south and southeastern coasts.

The report for English Nature, the government's chief conservation agency, estimates that on average the low-water mark could advance by two yards because of rising sea levels and failed

abandoned, allowing eroded sand dunes and salt marshes to re-form further inland and that in places soft cliffs should be left to crumble away, particularly where protective works need costly repair.

In this way, they suggest, new habitats could be created to offset predicted losses over the next 20 years which would include 24,710 acres of intertidal flats (4 per cent of the total), 6,795 acres of salt marsh (8 per cent), 590 acres of sand dunes (3 per cent), and six miles of unprotected soft cliff (4 per cent).

Two main forces are at work. First, the British Isles are tilting, with the south and east of England sinking into the sea as the land mass recovers its equilibrium after the last ice age. In the North-West, there is coastal growth in many parts as the land rises.

Second, global warming could raise the mean sea level over the next 20 years by up to 1.5m on the southwest, northwest and east coasts and by as much as 4in on parts of the south coast, the report says.

Many of the fixed defences in the South-East, built after the great floods of 40 years ago when 300 people drowned, are reaching the end of their lives. The environmental case against such defences is that salt marshes and other habitats rich in marine plants and wading birds are being scoured away as they are "squeezed" between rising sea levels and rigid sea walls.

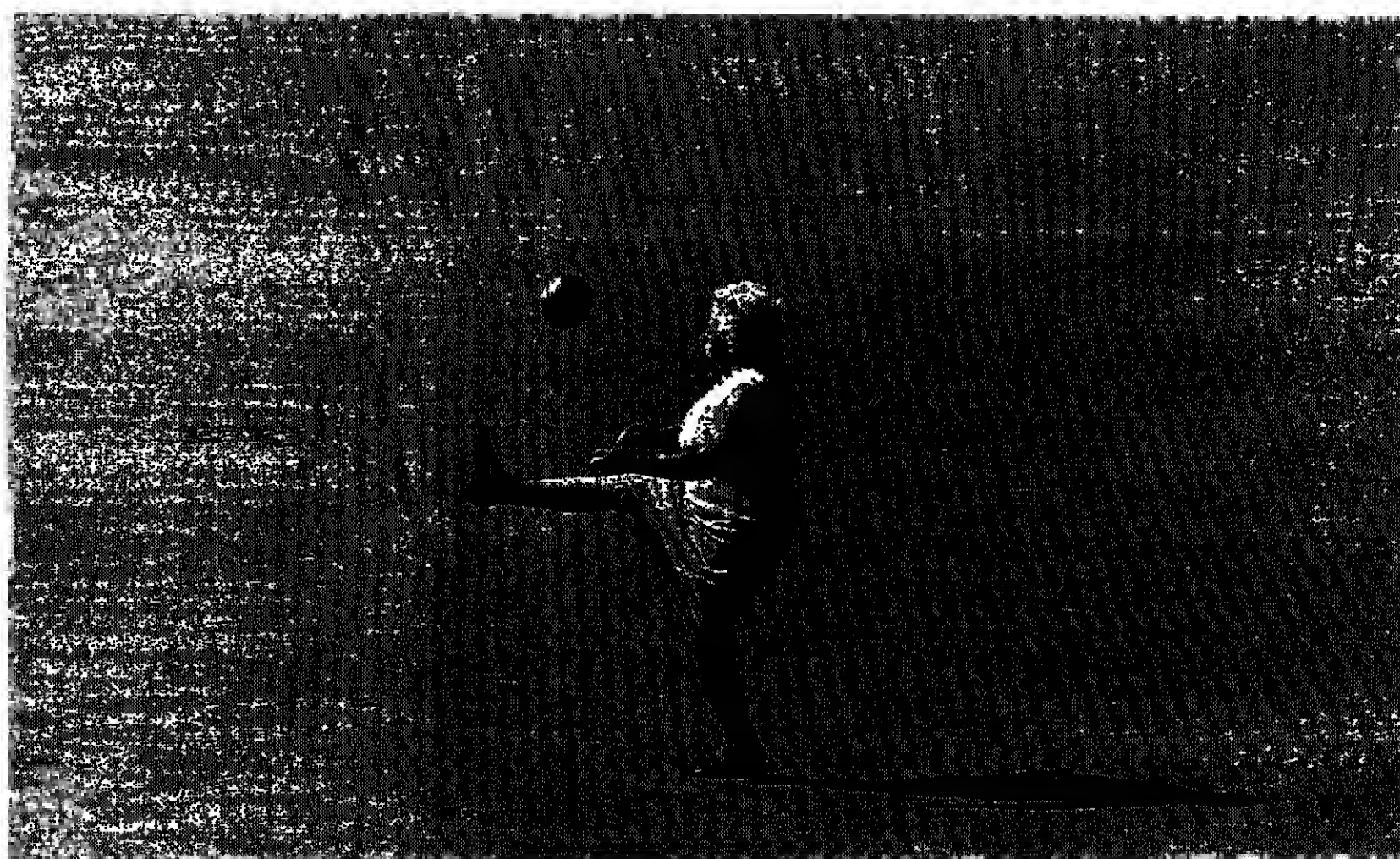
Targets for Coastal Habitat Recreation (Cambridge Environmental Research Consultants, 3d King's Parade, Cambridge CB2 1SJ)



attempts in the past to hold back the sea with walls and other hard defences. Geoffrey Radley, head of the agency's coastal conservation unit, said: "The report confirms the need to find sustainable ways of managing our coastline and the importance of developing soft engineering solutions to coastal defence. The recommendations are broadly in line with our own thinking."

The report's authors, Cambridge Environmental Research Consultants, suggest that some existing defences should be dismantled or

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Battle of the sexes delays new Catholic catechism

■ Roman Catholics hoping soon to read the English version of the new catechism of their church are facing disappointment

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE question of whether the word "men" can refer to women as well could delay by months the publication of the new catechism of the Roman Catholic church in English.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, which brings church thinking up to date on morality, has been translated using non-existent language for sale in England and the United States.

However, authorities at the Vatican are unhappy with variations from the original French text, according to the Catholic weekly *The Universe*. The issue is dividing bishops and cardinals in Rome, most of whom are determined to stand by the original.

The new catechism, which prohibits tax evasion and drug dealing as well as the more traditional sins, was to be on sale in England by Easter, but publication by then looks increasingly unlikely.

The work, the first time in more than 400 years that the church's teaching has been brought together in one volume, contains a more liberal interpretation of the Ten Commandments. Among modern sins it includes drink-driving, manipulating public opinion, incitement to pornography and producing or peddling drugs. Grave sins include consulting mediums and horoscopes, and superstition.

The translation into English has caused more problems than that into Italian, Spanish and German, because English grammar is not naturally inclusive, according to one source. Nearly every paragraph is said to be affected. In an attempt to be politically correct, English and American translators have resisted using the words "men", "marking" and male pronouns where the catechism is referring to both sexes and

used "people" and "persons" instead.

English and American bishops, many of whom believe the use of inclusive language is essential to achieve a wide circulation in English-speaking countries, met Catholic leaders in Rome earlier this week in an attempt to resolve the dispute.

The Right Rev David Konstant, bishop of Leeds, one of the seven authors of the catechism, was in Rome with Cardinal Bernard Law of Boston. They have both argued for the retention of the inclusive language. The Archbishop of Birmingham, the Most Rev Maurice Couve de Murville, who is on the conservative wing of the church, was also in Rome this week. According to one source, the bishops were involved in talks with Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

The 700-page catechism is to be published by Geoffrey Chapman of London, which plans a print-run of 12,000 for England and 10,000 for Ireland.

Sr Lavinia Byrne, at the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland, said it was possible now to buy accounts of the earliest church councils, from Nicaea in 325, in inclusive language. She said: "It is possible to translate all documents into inclusive language. This is essential if the church is not to seem antiquated in a world where everyone else is struggling to use inclusive language."

Sr Myra Poole, a campaigner for women's ordination in the Catholic church, said: "They do not understand the importance of language and symbolism. If the inclusive language is taken out, it really will be a regrettable step."



Under arrest: Anne Scargill being led off yesterday after protesting against pit closures outside the trade and industry department in London. Police arrested the wife of the miners' leader and four other women for holding a demonstration within a mile of Parliament. They were all later released without charge

Polar trek four days from glory

By IAN MURRAY

THE British explorers Sir Ranulph Fiennes and Dr Michael Stroud were last night on the brink of breaking the record for the longest unsupported polar trek and within four days of becoming the first to walk across Antarctica.

They have been averaging more than 15 miles a day in temperatures below 40C on the steep and dangerous Beardmore Glacier, despite injuries and damaged equipment. "Their goal is in sight now and they are very keen to finish," said David Harrison, a spokesman for the expedition.

The record for the longest unsupported polar trek was set in 1907.

Tennis club's ban on women members appals minister

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A DECISION by one of Ireland's most prestigious sports clubs to maintain a ban on women members was described as chilling and unacceptable by a government minister yesterday.

Mary O'Rourke, minister for labour, said Fitzwilliam Lawn Tennis Club had become "symbolic of the entrenched attitudes of men towards women in Ireland". Her brother, the former deputy prime minister Brian Lemhan, is a member of the club in south Dublin.

There have been several attempts to reform the Fitzwilliam, which was established in 1870 and has many top male lawyers and doctors among its members.

Women are admitted only as guests. Wives have free access to most facilities, in-

cluding the tennis and squash courts, but are not allowed to buy a drink at the bar or use the gymnasium or billiards room. They have no say in the way the club is run.

The latest proposal to allow women members, which was backed by the club president and committee, required a two-thirds majority in a secret ballot. There were 345 votes in favour of admitting women and 277 against, although only about a third of the members voted.

The main arguments against women are that the club lacks suitable facilities, they would bring their husbands to the club, and that the hallowed portals of the Fitzwilliam would, according to one member, be "swarming with children".

The Fitzwilliam may not be

able to resist change for much longer, however. New legislation is being drawn up to outlaw discrimination of any kind in all clubs.

Mervyn Taylor, minister for equality and law reform, has already focused on golf clubs, many of which do not grant full membership to women. He was very disappointed yesterday at what he described as the undemocratic developments at Fitzwilliam, but he could not confirm that the new legislation would definitely force the club to change its rules.

Anne Taylor, president of the Council for the Status of Women, said the government should deprive the club of its drinks licence in an attempt to encourage the minority of members who voted against women to think again.

Credo

Age of conflict must be ended

Dan Cohn-Sherbok

To many observers, the Israeli government's banishment of 396 Palestinians to their encampment in southern Lebanon and the refusal of humanitarian aid appears cruel and immoral. Yet world opinion has failed to acknowledge the political intentions of these deportees.

Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement to which these exiles allegedly belong, was founded in Gaza in 1987 at the beginning of the Intifada and from the outset made clear that its ultimate aim was to create a Muslim Palestine from the Mediterranean to the Jordan. In its manifesto, Hamas uncompromisingly declares: "The Islamic Resistance Movement believes that all the land of Palestine is sacred to Islam, through all the generations and forever, and it is forbidden to abandon it or to yield it."

Faced with such a threat, it is not surprising that Israel has sought to divest itself of this enemy within its own borders. In a post-Holocaust world, Israel must be eternally vigilant against those who seek to eliminate the Jewish people from their ancestral soil.

Nonetheless, such concern does not provide a justification for all political actions; rather the Jewish tradition serves as a check against excesses.

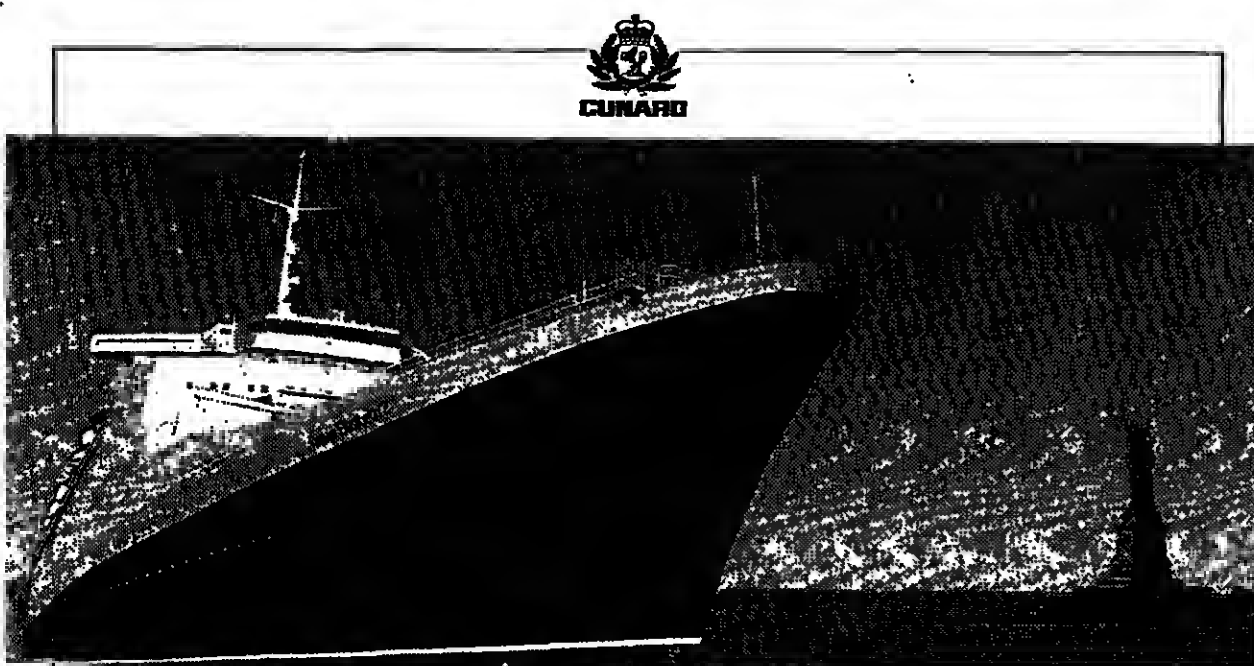
Traditionally, Israel's relationships with neighbouring nations have been conducted according to the rules of covenant. In the Hebrew scriptures, a covenant is a two-sided agreement and the ultimate covenant relationship is that of the Jewish people with God. Provided the people of Israel walk in the ways of the Lord, He will be God and they will be His people. A covenant lays down responsibilities as well as privileges; it de-

mands giving as well as taking, obligations as well as benefits. So it should be in politics. Israel has a duty to ensure justice for the Palestinian people. In return, Palestinians must acknowledge Israel's right to exist. Together, Jew and Arab must be committed to harmony and reconciliation. Such peace has, unfortunately, not yet been achieved. For five decades, the Jewish nation has struggled against its neighbours. Today, more than ever, understanding and forgiveness are required, but it must be from both sides.

Israel is in an unenviable position. There is no doubt that Hamas is a real threat to state security. Yet there is pressure on all sides. None of the surrounding Arab states is willing to offer a home to these people. The American Jewish community is uneasy at what is perceived to be Israel's intransigence. Still, it is essential that the plight of these 396 alleged terrorists should not get in the way of the peace process.

This terrible history of Arab-Jew conflict in the Middle East must come to an end. Now that the desire of the Jewish people for a homeland has been fulfilled, the nation must turn its attention to the plight of legitimate Palestinian refugees who have been dispossessed of their homes. A covenant must be established; Jews and Arabs must work together towards a mutual peace. When such a covenant is established, we can echo the words of the psalmist: "Behold how good and joyful a thing it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."

Rabbi Dr Dan Cohn-Sherbok has recently been appointed visiting professor at the University of Essex.



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Lancet accuses breast cancer charities of false claims

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

DOCTORS are losing the battle against breast cancer, which continues to kill thousands of women, *The Lancet* says today.

In spite of hundreds of millions of pounds being spent on prevention, treatment and research, the death rate from breast cancer, which kills 15,000 women a year, is continuing to rise.

The medical journal criticises the "triumphalism" of medical researchers and the "almost weekly medical breakthroughs" trumpeted by the cancer charities for causing false optimism. It says there is no evidence that screening saves lives in women aged under 50 or over 64. A 30 per

cent reduction in the death rate between those ages, when screening is effective, translates into only 15,000 lives saved out of 150,000 expected deaths in the next decade. Researchers should be asking "why this approach is so disappointing", the *Lancet* says in an editorial.

New surgical techniques that aim to preserve the breast have neither improved survival rates nor, surprisingly, reduced psychosocial or psychosexual problems, possibly because fear of death overwhelms fear of disfigurement. The *Lancet* says it is time to "pause and ask what we have really achieved for women with breast cancer and where we should be going".

Professor Nick Wright, director of clinical research at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, denied that the organisation had ever claimed a medical breakthrough for any kind of cancer. "No one is more aware than us that new approaches are needed for breast cancer which, is why we spend at least half the £5 million a year we devote to the disease trying to discover and develop them."

A review in the *American Journal of Science* paints an equally gloomy picture, observing that the risk of breast cancer has doubled in North America since 1940. One in eight American women is expected to have the disease, although some of that rise is the result of improved detection.

One of the best hopes for preventing the cancer — by changes in diet — has also faded. The theory that eating fatty foods increases the risk appears to have been disproved, the journal says. Large studies in America and The Netherlands have found no link between the disease and fat in the adult diet.

These failures have not diminished hope of progress. The US Congress, after intense lobbying, has doubled research funds for breast cancer this year to \$210 million.

Heart risk traced to hormones

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

HIGH blood pressure, one of the main risk factors in heart disease, is not the product of an excessive life style but the result of hormones in the womb, new research suggests.

Professor Christopher Edwards and colleagues from the department of medicine at the University of Edinburgh studied levels of steroid hormones called glucocorticoids, which are produced by mothers. If the foetus is exposed to too much glucocorticoid, birth weight is low and blood pressure is high.

The Edinburgh team suggests that the high glucocorticoid levels may impair development of the heart and blood vessels. The result is high blood pressure, and all the risks it carries with it.



Birthday bow: the jazz violinist Stephane Grappelli rehearsing for tonight's concert with the London Symphony Orchestra at the Barbican Centre, London, to celebrate his eighty-fifth birthday. He will be joined by his jazz trio for a second concert on Monday night

£5m profit boosts InterCity managers' fight for network

By TIM JONES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

SENIOR InterCity managers believe their campaign against the government's decision to break up their rail network will be boosted by an annual profit of about £5 million.

The expected profit, to be announced in June, has been achieved despite the loss of £70 million in passenger receipts because of the recession.

The InterCity managers have made no secret of their disappointment with their fate and next week are due to meet Roger Freeman, the public transport minister, to "discuss how brand strengths can be retained and developed".

There is a growing perception that without a strong measure of co-operation between franchise holders, the privatisation exercise could degenerate into unco-ordinated confusion. With 14,000 legal agreements covering the BR

network, pessimists have painted a picture of angry passengers being stranded while lawyers dig into a goldmine. Potential conflicts could range from who blows the whistle on a platform to complex disputes over ticketing arrangements.

To quieten the critics, Mr Freeman will examine the possibility of allowing franchise holders to set up a jointly owned company that would, in effect, ensure that 200,000 daily InterCity customers would be largely unaware they were travelling on independently operated services. The company could be established only with the approval of Roger Salmon, the merchant banker who will become director of passenger rail franchising.

Crucially, it would maintain the philosophy of InterCity as

an easy-to-use alternative to road and air travel, although the players would be responsible for their own financial fates.

The company would also ensure that an InterCity traveller could buy a through ticket to Glasgow from Penzance and slide seamlessly from one "territory" into another.

Such a centre could continue to market InterCity while ensuring agreement on crucial questions of maintaining the brand name, advertising and special deal fares. Just as importantly, it would enable the company to own and lease the trains and rolling stock, which could in turn be leased out to the various franchise holders to cut costs and allow them to borrow each other's stock.

Simon Jenkins, page 14

Maimed geese left to die by gun clubs

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

SCORES of injured geese turning up on the banks of the river Tay are worrying local people, who blame controversial shooting parties for the carnage.

Dundee District Council yesterday contacted the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and called in wildlife rangers to monitor the dead and dying birds. Some are missing feet and dragging broken wings.

Bruce Anderson, Tayside conservation officer for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, said: "There is concern about the shooting parties, Italians in particular. People are reporting that they are shooting large numbers at a time, shooting at random into flocks, shooting into flocks on the ground and shooting birds other than geese." He said that it was

legal to shoot geese and the society could become involved only if illegal lures or repeating shotguns were used.

Charles Farquhar, a councillor, said that hundreds of the birds were being maimed. "Some are suffering dreadfully before they die. We are writing to the German and Italian ambassadors."

The British Association for Shooting and Conservation sent its local officer to Kingoodie, scene of some of the worst carnage, yesterday. The association has a code of conduct that it gives to all hotels and guides offering shooting facilities.

Robin Peel, head of public affairs for the association, said: "It is a problem. We will be holding a series of meetings with all concerned in an attempt to ensure our code of practice is enforced."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Baby girl drowns in car seat

A baby girl drowned after being trapped in a child seat when her mother's car fell over a bridge into 6ft of water.

The accident happened at South Kyme, Lincolnshire, as Kim Mead, 30, drove home her two children after visiting her father. She fought to free her daughter Harriot, who was 22 months old, but was unable to release the straps on the seat in the back of the car.

She released her six-month-old son Alexander from a child's seat in the front, and scrambled up the bank for help. A lorry driver jumped into the water and freed Harriot, but it was too late.

Animal tests up

Animal experiments rose by 1 per cent in 1991, the Home Office said. Much of the growth was the result of genetic manipulation. Cosmetics testing declined to 3,100 experiments, less than 0.1 per cent of the total.

Bishop's move

Mgr James McLoughlin is to be Roman Catholic bishop of Galway in succession to Dr Eamon Casey, 65, who resigned nine months ago after admitting that he was the father of a teenage boy.

No butts

Hypnotists and counsellors are being brought in by the Asda supermarket chain to help its 1,500 staff at head office in Leeds quit smoking by March 1 when the building will become a smoke-free zone.

Bridge hitch

Engineers working on the second Severn crossing had to abandon an attempt to lower a 2,000-ton concrete box on to the river bed when its giant barge developed engine faults.

Fire death

Police are investigating after the burnt body of a girl aged between 13 and 19 was found in an alleyway on a council estate in Preston, Lancashire.

Litter losers

Firms that put advertising leaflets on windcreens are to be prosecuted for litter dumping in Erewash, Derbyshire.



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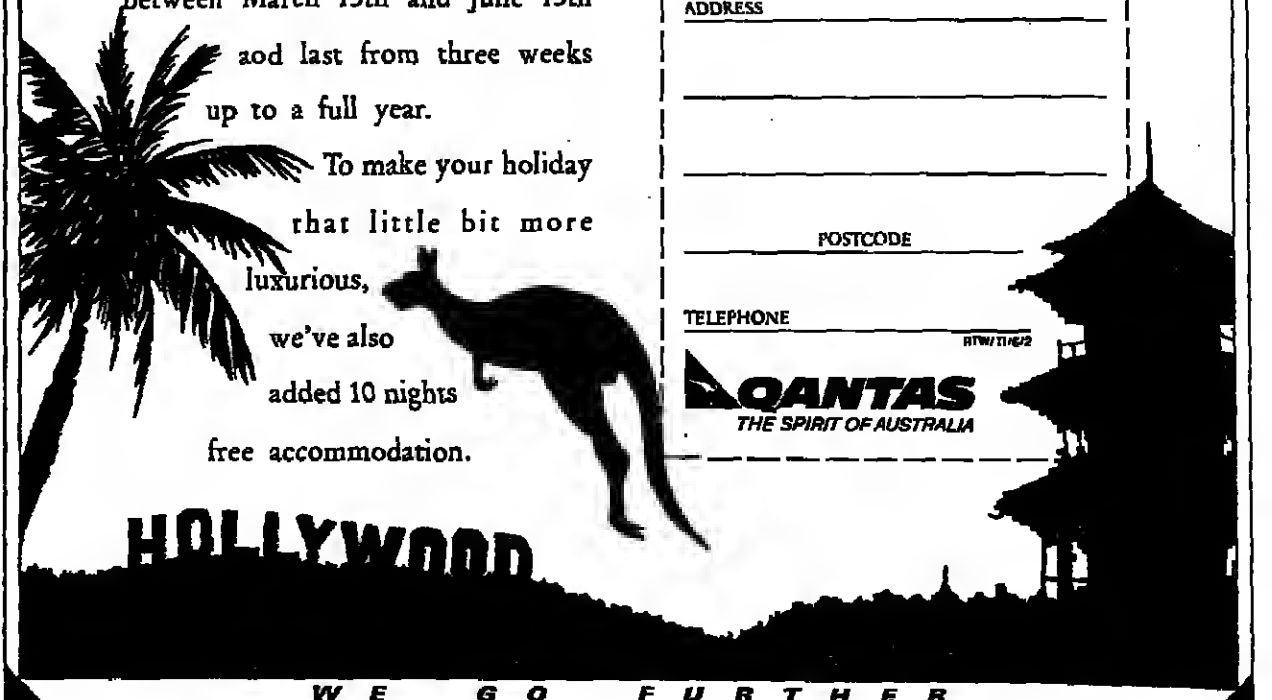
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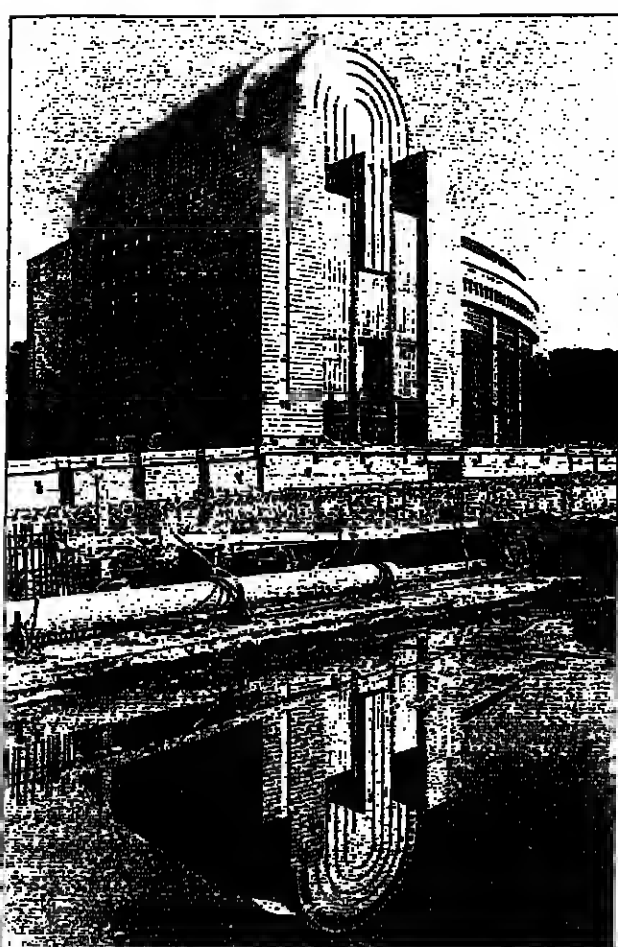
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QANTAS

THE SPIRIT OF AUSTRALIA



Redrawing the political map: Tories are likely to be big winners from 1994 boundary changes



Seat of power: the new Hall of Congress in Brussels

Ministers agonise over new Euro-seats

By DAVID BUTLER
AND ROGER MORTIMORE

■ Aspiring Euro-MPs' plans have been thrown into confusion by attempts to fit in six more seats for next year's election

THE government is grappling with the unusual, and politically sensitive, predicament of how to allocate six extra seats in the European Parliament. Proposals for a limited redrawing of boundaries are imminent. For sitting MEPs and aspirants, such as Edwina Currie, searching for a safe—or at least winnable—seat, this is causing great concern. Most will not know for several months whether they are fighting a constituency that is secure, marginal or hopeless and the parties cannot calculate their overall prospects.

European Commission leaders decreed at Edinburgh last December that the United Kingdom, France and Italy should have 87 seats each, rather than 81, in the next parliament, due to be elected in 1994. This is to provide a counter-balance to Germany's jump from 81 to 97 seats, resulting from the 20 per cent increase in its population after reunification.

This change presents few problems for countries with proportional representation,

but causes headaches for the United Kingdom, with its single-member arrangement. How can the 78 constituencies in Britain—the other three are in Northern Ireland—be transformed into 84 without enormous disruption?

The parties are already choosing candidates for existing seats; now they will have to start again. The Liberal Democrats suggested a simple, albeit self-interested, solution: put the extra six seats into a pool and allocate them in

proportion to the nationwide vote. Not surprisingly, John Major rejected the idea.

Other options include allocating seats to all parts of the United Kingdom, but the main changes are likely to affect England. Its electoral map has to be rejigged to produce 71 or 72 equal-sized constituencies instead of the existing 66. Scotland and Wales do not have to change since, even under the new quota, they remain entitled to only eight and four seats

respectively, though they might gain an extra one for political reasons.

There is a particular absurdity about the English redistricting. Each constituency consists of seven or eight average-sized Westminster seats. To be ready for the 1994 elections, legislation will be needed to short-circuit existing provisions for local enquiries.

The new boundaries will be drawn on the basis of the outdated 1983 parliamentary constituencies, which are

being reviewed. The new Westminster seats are at present only hypothetical, so the Euro-boundaries next year will have only a brief life. The 1999 European elections will be based on the new Westminster boundaries. (There may be fewer MEPs from the United Kingdom after the admission of new countries to the EC.)

In the 1989 European elections, the 66 English seats split 34 Labour and 32 Tory. If votes had been divided as in the 1992 general election, they would have split 22 Labour to 44 Tory.

Assuming the extra six seats are all in England, how would the 72 new seats divide? On the basis of the April 1992 electorate, the new population for a Euro-constituency would be 501,000. Starting in Cornwall, we have worked across England, putting Westminster seats into compact groupings with between 460,000 and 540,000 electors. Existing boundaries have been disturbed as little as possible. This is obviously arbitrary, although the Boundary Commission proposals will also be arbitrary and the implications may not be very different.

Constituency names present real difficulties, especially for the heterogeneous, boundary-crossing seats in the Midlands. We have used cumbersome labels, just as the Boundary Commission felt forced to do. We have only once lapsed into a poetic simplification—the Dukeries—and we are aware that it would displease many of the inhabitants of that part of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. Even our long-winded labels often fail to allow for an isolated Westminster seat that the pursuit of numerical equality forced us to attach to a European seat otherwise drawn from one country.

The new map was drawn up without regard to party consequences. If votes were divided in the same proportions as on April 9, the 72 English Euro-seats would divide 49 Tory to 23 Labour instead of the 44-22 division that would have occurred with the former 66. For Britain, the new total of 84 seats would divide 50 to 33 with the last seat, Highlands and Islands, trembling between Liberal Democrat and Scottish nationalist.

Only nine of the old seats survive unchanged but the

parties gain fairly evenly from the alterations. The Tories would win four seats (Derby, Humberside North, Lancashire East and Staffordshire East) which previously would have gone to Labour on the 1992 votes, but the changes would also save three seats for Labour that otherwise would have gone to the Tories.

The Tories are the clear gainers, however, when we consider the six proposed seats that have the best claim to be considered "new". Three are in the South, two in the Midlands and one in the North. All would go to the Tories except one, the Dukeries. All estimates are on the basis of votes cast in 1992. Between the 1989 European election and the 1992 general election there was a swing of 6.8 per cent from Labour to Tory. If a similar swing back to Labour is assumed in the new seats, the result in Britain would be changed in 15 seats: Labour would get 46 to the Tories' 36, with two for other parties. This contrasts with the 1989 result of 45 seats for Labour to 32 Tory.

In 1992, 43 per cent of the national vote won the Tories 51 per cent of the Westminster seats, but it would have won them 60 per cent of the European seats on existing boundaries or on the new map. The exaggerated qualities of the first-past-the-post electoral system are more extreme with 84 large seats than when the law of averages works itself out over 651 seats.

David Butler is a Fellow of Nuffield College, Oxford. Roger Mortimore works for Market & Opinion Research International.



Currie: must delay search for safe seat

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Leicester (Con/Lab)	1.5
Staffordshire East (Con/Lab)	1.8
London West (Lab/Con)	2.7
Norfolk (Con/Lab)	2.8
Cumbria (Lab/Con)	3.0
Somerset (Con/Lib Dem)	3.2
London South West (Lab/Con)	3.5
Cheshire North East (Con/Lab)	3.5
Bristol (Lab/Con)	3.7
Lancashire Coastal (Lab/Con)	4.3
London East (Lab/Con)	4.5
Highlands & Islands (Lib Dem/Scott Nats)	1.4
Scotland North East (Lab/Scott Nats)	3.4

Assuming a 7 per cent swing against the Tories compared with the 1992 general election.

Drawn mainly from	% maj on 1992 vote
Home Counties NE (Cambs/Beds S/Essex NE)	Con/Lib Dem 32
Cheshire NE & Stockport (Greater Manchester E)	Con/Lab 18
Dorset & Devon East (Dorset)	Con/Lib Dem 18
Dukeries (Lincoln/Derby/Sheffield)	Lab/Con 12
Midlands East (Leicester)	Con/Lab 23
Upper Thames (Oxfordshire & Bucks)	Con/Lib Dem 28

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Blair forces law and order to the top of Labour agenda

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY Blair, the shadow home secretary, last night launched Labour's drive to seize the initiative on law and order from the Conservative party. In a speech at the local government conference in Bournemouth, Mr Blair pointed to the relentless increase in crime under 14 years of Conservative rule.

Labour will announce details of the party's plans to combat crime in the next few weeks with Mr Blair convinced that Labour can win on an issue that the Tories have traditionally regarded as their own. The Labour leadership now considers law and order a key policy area.

Mr Blair said: "Crime is now rightly taking its place as a principal item on the political agenda. When elderly people are often afraid to stay in their own house, never mind go out at night, when young people find themselves harassed and abused as they walk on our streets or use public transport... this represents not just the manifestation of isolated acts of anti-social behaviour, it is a fundamental and widespread invasion of our democratic rights."

Calling for a new approach in tackling the rise in theft and violence, Mr Blair said it was vital to be tough on crime and its causes. He challenged John Major's suggestion earlier this week that socialism could be blamed for inner city crime. "It is not the Labour party that has been in power for the last 14 years as crime has more than doubled - 50 per cent in the last three years," he said.

He disputed the implication that crime was confined to inner cities by pointing out the huge increases in burglaries elsewhere. Thefts in Leicestershire have increased by 452 per cent since 1979, while Gloucestershire showed a 444 per cent rise in burglaries. Criminal behaviour may come in its most violent form in the inner city but actually it disfigures most towns and villages every Friday or Saturday night," Mr Blair said.

"We need a new approach to crime, one that breaks through the traditional factions of analysis - those who 'blame' society and those who 'blame' the individual."

While there was no excuse for crime it was equally true that poor education, bad housing, lack of employment and training opportunities and broken families were "more likely to produce criminals than communities where hope and opportunity exist for all".

It was imperative to find a new relationship between the community and the individual, he said. This should be based on community co-operation between local people, police and the government.

He warned Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, against replacing elected members of the police authority with businessmen. "By all means let local businesses and others be involved in policy and policing priorities, but removing a local say through local representatives would be a foolish and regressive step."



Blair: urged rethink on causes of crime

Clarke may lock up more children

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

JUVENILE offenders face being sent to approved school-style accommodation under plans being considered by the government. A new sentence would give courts the power to send persistent offenders aged between 12 and 15 to secure units.

The units would provide punishment, discipline and education, but would be separate from the prison system. At present, there are 270 places in local authority secure units, with plans to provide a further 65 by 1996.

Another option being considered by the Home Office is to attach conditions to the cautions used widely by police in dealing with juveniles. The latest Home Office figures show that, in 1990, 70 per cent of male offenders between 14 and 16, and 86 per cent of females, were cautioned by police. Ministers are concerned that cautions are being used too readily in dealing with persistent offenders.

Any move to attach sanctions to police cautions would be likely to need Parliament's approval. The traditional Home Office view has been that such measures would require some form of protection for youngsters.

Although the prime minister and Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, have signalled their desire for more secure accommodation for persistent offenders, Mr Clarke has been alarmed at the costs. He is looking at ways of involving the private sector to cut the capital cost of £200,000 per place to less than £100,000. Running costs range between £1,500 and £2,700 per child per week.

The difficulty facing ministers is that there are few exact figures on which to base a new policy. Initial findings from a survey of all 43 police forces in England and Wales and social service departments showed that 106 juveniles were known or alleged to have committed ten or more offences in the three months up to the end of June last year. The findings did not include precise figures from the Metropolitan police or West Midlands police. Officials at the Home Office believe that the figure is higher, through probably not more than 1,000.

Figures for 1991 show that there were 149,000 known male offenders and 33,500 females aged between 10 and 17. Those under 18 comprise 17 per cent of all known offenders, compared with 26 per cent in 1981 and 24 per cent in 1983.

Penal affairs groups are strongly opposed to the proposals, saying that imprisonment and detention had failed to stop reoffending and was a costly method of making bad people worse. They argue that the figures do not justify the expenditure involved in providing secure accommodation.

Research in the 1970s showed that 65 per cent of first offenders and 78 per cent of offenders with previous convictions who were given approved school orders were reconvicted within five years.

Illegal campers get early alarm call

By JONATHAN PRYNN

THE government is to bring forward legislation "as soon as the parliamentary timetable allows" to fulfil John Major's conference speech pledge to tackle illegal camping by new age travellers.

Tony Baldry, a junior environment minister, told the Commons yesterday that a recent consultation paper on the issue had provoked almost 1,200 responses, "some bordering on the hysterical".

He added: "The government seeks to ensure unlawful camping does not take place." A commitment to review the 1968 Caravan Sites Act, which requires the government to provide 100 per cent grants for council gypsy sites, was included in the election manifesto.

At last year's party conference, Mr Major condemned travellers for "destroying the property of others" and sponging off the welfare state. In spite of the provision of sites for 9,000 gypsy caravans since 1968, 4,500 remain illegally camped.

Mr Baldry was speaking in a debate on a private member's bill to force councils to dispose of gypsy caravan sites. The bill, introduced by Sir Cranley Onslow, Tory MP for Woking, has almost no chance of becoming law. Legislation will be brought forward as soon as possible, Mr Baldry said. A bill is not thought imminent.

The government wants gypsies to set up their own sites through planning applications to local authorities rather than relying on state provision. Mr Baldry announced planning guidelines "that will require local authorities to include policies for providing such sites in their development plans". The guidelines are aimed at overcoming ritual objection by local communities to every application by gypsy groups.

Ladies in waiting set sights on Parliament

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT



Female focus: members of Emily's List UK outside parliament at the organisation's launch yesterday

BETTY Boothroyd, better known as Madam Speaker, yesterday blamed sex discrimination by male-dominated selection committees for the shortage of women MPs.

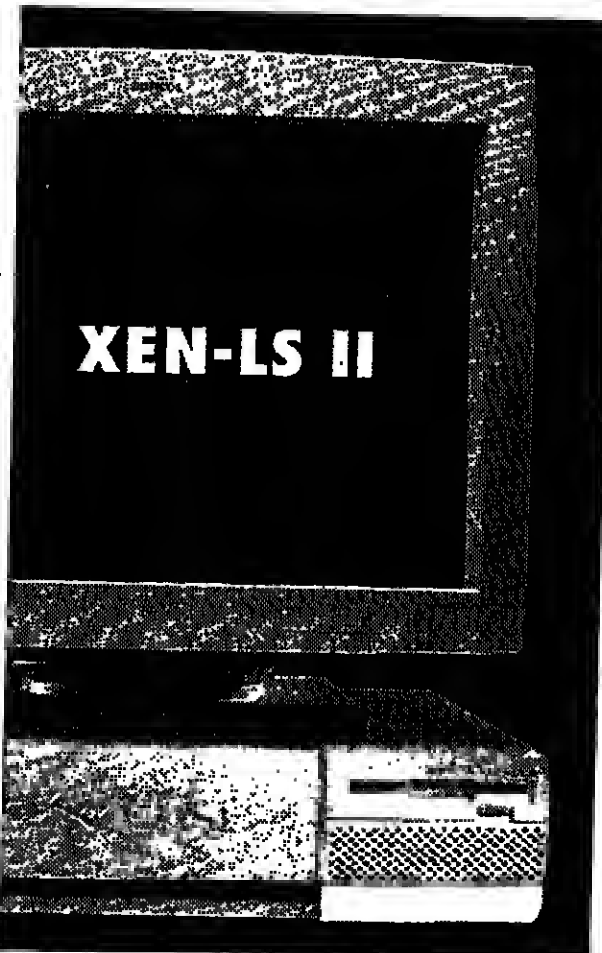
On the eve of the 75th anniversary of the first British women getting the vote, the Speaker talked of the extra barriers that women must overcome to enter Parliament: there are only 60 women among the 651 MPs.

Miss Boothroyd said she would be Speaker of the Commons if she had married and had a family. Women's role as homemakers was one obstacle, and selection committees were another, she said on BBC Radio 4's *The World At One*.

To mark the anniversary, a fundraising organisation, Emily's List UK, was launched yesterday to help Labour women to stand for the British and European parliaments. The equivalent organisation in America raised £4.5 million to help Democrat women stand for the House of Representatives and their representation has since trebled.

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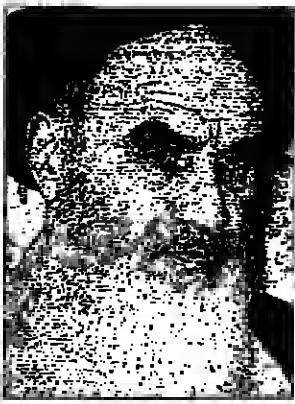


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Khomeini's heirs battle with rising tide of public contempt



Khomeini: his tenets are being challenged

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN TEHRAN

AS THE fourteenth anniversary of the Islamic revolution is celebrated this week, Iran's ruling mullahs are facing increasing defiance and disrespect from the public and sections of the conventional security forces.

Police officers have intervened to prevent the more ideologically motivated Revolutionary Guards from enforcing the strict Islamic dress code, and regular troops have clashed with the guards in at least one Tehran barracks over attempts

to tighten Islamic discipline in their ranks.

Western observers recently witnessed one clash between policemen and bearded guards trying to round up women in north Tehran's Tajesh Square. In one unreported clash between lowly paid soldiers and the guards last September, Western sources said that seven people were killed and 40 injured.

It is not uncommon to see members of the middle and upper classes spit and shout at vigilantes imposing the Islamic code on the streets and in the homes of the capital. Many younger women are

A paradox in Iran is likely to inflame tensions: the mullahs deny social freedom while encouraging economic modernisation

persisting in wearing anoraks, make-up and fluorescent socks, defying norms laid down by the "disciplinary forces". The increasing challenge to revolutionary tenets established by Ayatollah Khomeini, Iran's late spiritual leader, is being matched, four years after his death, by signs of public disrespect that would have been unimaginable before. As a crude way of

indicating opposition to the clerical hierarchy, many Iranians often refer to the lavatory as *dafar-e-Imam*, or "the Imam's office". A decision by the central bank to overrule the late ayatollah's wishes and put his image on banknotes was accompanied by an order that any found defaced would not be treated as legal tender. A senior Nato diplomat said: "People are so hard-

pressed economically they are becoming fearless. They feel that now they have nothing to lose." Some analysts, even those sympathetic to Islam, believe tension will continue to grow because of what is seen as a doomed attempt to modernise the economy while at the same time forbidding any accompanying social or ideological thaw.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the hardline spiritual leader, acknowledged the problems last month when he appointed nine senior Muslim clerics to find ideologically acceptable answers to the problems posed by the 20th century. "You

should now assume the responsibility of responding to the current needs of the Muslim individual and society from the viewpoint of Sharia (Islamic law)," he said. "Your mission is to find rational and scholarly answers for the questions raised by the Islamic community today."

Contempt for the mullahs is voiced openly to Westerners. A bearded hotel worker laughed derisively as he pointed to a large sign in the lobby of the luxury Azadi Grand Hotel, declaring "Down with the USA", while at the reception desk guests were told that room bills could be settled only

in US dollars. "The sign should say: 'We love you greenbacks'," the worker said. Along the teeming alleys of the bazaar, the main joke among merchants this week concerned widespread rumours that Iran's \$500 million (£350 million) Kilo Class submarine, bought last year from Russia, had sunk or run aground because of the incompetence of its Iranian crew in underwater navigation.

Diplomats with years of experience in Iran said that public discontent, long a feature of daily life, has risen to a pitch not experienced since the shah was toppled in 1979.

UK backs author's right to speak and travel

Whitehall support for Rushdie angers Iran

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

TEHRAN accused Britain yesterday of fuelling hostility between the two countries over the Salman Rushdie affair, as Whitehall indicated that it supports the author's decision to begin emerging from hiding, four years after Ayatollah Khomeini, Iran's late spiritual leader, called on the Islamic world to kill him.

Iran is angry that Mr Rushdie was invited to the Foreign Office on Thursday in a show of government support. The official Iranian news agency, Ima, said: "The refuelling of the [Rushdie] dispute coincides with moves by Britain to extend its arms embargo against Iran to include high technology, following requests from the US."

"The British government is also thought to be under pressure from Israel to take a more hostile line against Iran, given its opposition to the Zionist regime and its scepticism about the so-called Middle East peace process."

Mr Rushdie, who has stayed at more than 200 addresses since the fatwa was declared against him, this week said he had decided to live a more normal life. "I've had it, frankly, with this kind of stuff," he told BBC radio.

The Indian-born author has lived under police protection since his book, *The Satanic Verses*, was ruled blasphemous to Islam. An Iranian

foundation at first offered a \$1 million (£695,000) bounty for his death, doubled it last year, and in November increased it again to include all expenses involved in his execution.

Britain yesterday denied it was seeking to antagonise Iran by inviting Mr Rushdie to meet Douglas Hogg, the Foreign Office minister, for 45 minutes on Thursday. A spokesman said the government had felt it "right to demonstrate our stand" after Iranian religious leaders several times recently confirmed the fatwa and the bounty. He said the government's policy on handling the case had not changed, but a decision had been made to take a higher profile in trying to reach a solution.

"You have a policy and you pursue it until you reach a solution," the spokesman said. "Salman Rushdie is now being more visible and if you ask 'are we angry about that?' the answer is no. He enjoys the same rights to free speech and travel as anyone else."

The spokesman said that Mr Hogg had told Mr Rushdie that Britain was greatly concerned by the continued failure of Iran to repudiate the death order.

Iran says the death sentence is a religious edict which the Tehran government cannot change. Only Ayatollah Khomeini could have withdrawn

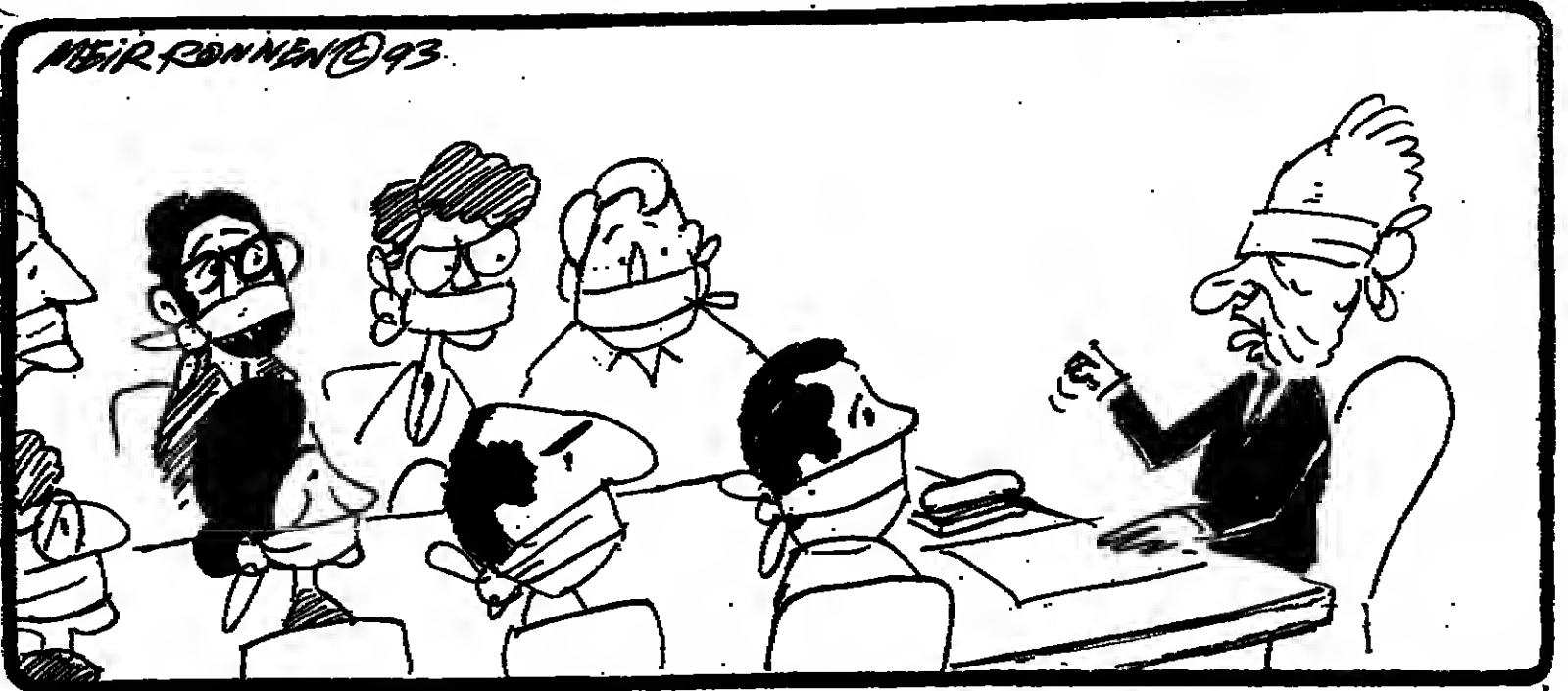
the fatwa, President Rafsanjani said earlier this week.

Mr Rushdie has also reacted to press criticism that he had not contributed enough financially to the millions of pounds it has so far cost to safeguard him. He said he had paid at least £100,000 a year towards the costs of his protection.

The author has appeared in public in England several times in the past year, giving speeches and attending literary functions. He has also travelled to the United States and Ireland. Mr Rushdie said the government had offered to support his efforts to bring his case before international bodies, including the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva.

Tehran cut relations with Britain in March 1989 over publication of Mr Rushdie's book. Diplomatic links were restored in September 1990 but Britain has made it clear that resumption of full diplomatic relations depends on Iran lifting the fatwa.

In Tehran, President Rafsanjani yesterday urged Iranians to take to the streets next Thursday on the anniversary of the Islamic revolution which overthrew the late Shah in 1979. "Your presence at the rallies can be as effective as 1,000 atomic bombs against our enemies," he told crowds attending Friday prayers.



Blind man's bluff: a Jerusalem Post cartoon criticising Yitzhak Rabin's autocratic style under the guise of collective cabinet responsibility

Expulsions draw party flak for Rabin

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

YITZHAK Rabin's military demeanour does not accept easily the concept of retreat. So when the Israeli army yesterday released a list of 101 Palestinian deportees to be repatriated, the first instalment of a package of concessions over the expulsions, it damaged the tough reputation of the prime minister, the country's most celebrated former general.

The compromise could assist Warren Christopher, the American Secretary of State, to revive the peace process when he visits the Middle East in less than two weeks. But Mr

Rabin's handling of the deportations affair has left a question mark over his leadership.

Only seven months ago, when the Labour party leader came to power on a wave of public enthusiasm and expectation, it was widely accepted that Mr Rabin was the only politician who could deliver peace with Israel's Arab neighbours while safeguarding the country's security needs. Even though the veteran leader was better known for his military prowess than his diplomatic skills, the no-oo-sense approach to peacemaking made his promise to reach an accord with the Palestinians and the Syrians within a year highly plausible.

Today, however, reflecting on the way he decided to deport 415 Palestinians suspected of membership of banned militant Islamic groups and his handling of the unfolding crisis, members of his party are coming to some depressing conclusions. Not only did Mr Rabin steamroller the deportation order through the cabinet, but he failed to make clear the scale and implications

of the order before Israel was embroiled in a fiasco. The Muslim fundamentalist cause been enhanced to the detriment of more moderate Palestinians, and Israel has been led into an unnecessary confrontation with the United Nations Security Council and the Clinton administration.

The strains on Mr Rabin emerged this week during the cabinet meeting when he abruptly silenced David Libai, the justice minister, the only member of his government to voice objections about the deportation decision and to abstain during the initial vote.

The Israeli leader has faced a barrage of complaints from within his party for his autocratic style of leadership and his refusal to accept criticism. "Fear stalks the cabinet," said Haggain Merom, a Labour MP who alleged that policy was being set by aides in the prime minister's office.

A number of members of the Labour party are disaffected with what they see as Mr Rabin's dictatorial manner and impatient that none of his election promises have been

fulfilled. It seems likely, for instance, that the bilateral peace talks, the main focus of the left-wing coalition government's policy, will not now reconvene until April. Even then, Israel, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and the Palestinians will be no nearer a solution than when they broke off negotiations in December.

To make matters worse, the coalition government is showing new signs of fragmentation, because of strains between the two junior partners, the left-wing Meretz party and the ultra-orthodox Shas party.

Although Mr Rabin enjoys broad public support, that may also begin to slide, particularly if the main opposition Likud party elects the popular Benjamin Netanyahu as its leader to replace Yitzhak Shamir, the former prime minister. "The government was correct when it said it would have a year to prove itself," said one political observer. "The time is nearly up and it has still achieved nothing."

Credo, page 6

Tehran in hit squad enquiry

FROM ANDREW FINKEL
IN ISTANBUL

TURKISH and Iranian foreign ministers will confront each other for the first time today after revelations that a Turkish underground Islamic group received training in assassination techniques in Tehran and Qom.

The meeting at Quito in Pakistan is part of a scheduled summit of the Economic Co-operation Organisation. It provides Turkey with an opportunity to question Tehran over its involvement in the murders of a number of Turkish public figures.

Yesterday, the Istanbul-based *Cumhuriyet* newspaper claimed that the authorities were no nearer solving the murder of Ugur Mumuk, the paper's leading columnist, who was killed by a car bomb on January 24. It said they were trying for diplomatic reasons to deflect blame from the Iranian government.

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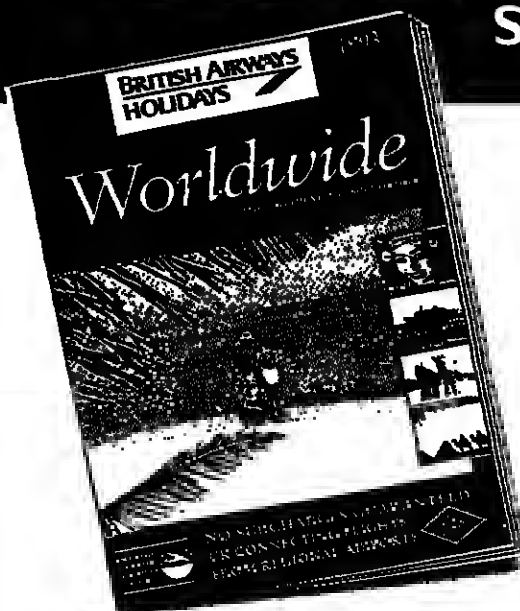
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Sarajevo looks to America as UN chief backs Owen

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS
IN SARAJEVO

THE people of Sarajevo reacted with weary disbelief yesterday after the secretary-general of the United Nations endorsed the Geneva peace plan for Bosnia. The beleaguered Bosnian presidency, however, took comfort from President Clinton's promise to issue an alternative blueprint.

"Boutros Boutros Ghali is a friend of the Serbs," Zubjekic Ismet, 26, a policeman patrolling the devastated streets around the battered Bosnian presidency building, said. "Everything he does strengthens the hand of the Serbs," he added as the gunners on the front lines around the city resumed their daily cacophony after a morning lull. "Only the US can save us now."

Conditions for the besieged people of Sarajevo have eased only slightly, with electricity and local telephones restored in part to a fifth of homes two weeks ago. The fresh water shortage is still bad, but that situation has also improved slightly, residents say. A mercifully mild winter has saved thousands of lives, although old people pulling pathetic sleds bearing firewood remain a feature of the grim cityscape along Sniper's Alley.

Food remains inadequate for the vast majority unable to afford the black market. UN protection force (Unprofor) statistics released this week said French UN troops still are

■ Boutros Boutros Ghali is being called "a friend of the Serbs". An alternative blueprint by Washington looks doomed

turning back an average of 500 people a night trying to cross on man's land near the city airport to forage for food. A senior aide to President Isetbegovic said, however, that he was encouraged that Washington had failed to endorse the Vance-Owen package and was confident that President Clinton would lift the arms embargo so that Muslims can arm themselves against the Serbian heavy weapons pounding the city. The US statement was reasonable, the aide, Kemal Mufic, said. "I am convinced the US plan will not deny the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina the chance for legal self-defence. We know the Americans will stand by human rights."

President Clinton has made election promises and we are convinced he cannot shirk his responsibility for the life or death of hundreds of thousands. We were surprised by the decision of Boutros Boutros Ghali, especially since he has been here and seen the destruction of the city."

Relations between President Isetbegovic and the UN have plunged to a new low in the wake of a UN report on the killing of Hakiya Turajlic, the Bosnian deputy prime minister, by a Serbian gunman as

he was being driven in a French Unprofor armoured personnel carrier on the road from Sarajevo airport. The report partly blames Bosnian officials for making excessive use of Unprofor vehicles and not providing sufficient information about passengers.

"That is outrageous," said Mr Mufic, who travelled with Mr Turajlic in a French armoured personnel carrier on the journey to the airport. "We entered the vehicle in front of the presidency with the list of passengers that Unprofor had accepted. Even if what the UN report says is true, does that mean that people should be killed on the airport road? The Unprofor troops should not have opened the APC door."

Bosnian politicians fear the UN report may be used as an excuse to discourage them from travelling abroad to state their case. The mayor of Sarajevo, Muhamed Kreziyakov, said he had been prevented on Thursday from flying to Rome for an audience with the Pope. "Obviously someone does not want the truth to be known about Sarajevo," he said.

Clinton envoy, page 1
Leading article, page 15

Serbia is not as disunited as West would like to think

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

BOSNIA has long been nicknamed "the leopard skin" in Belgrade because of the multitude of ethnic dots on its map. But this is one leopard which has changed its spots — with ethnic cleansing and fighting driving out whole communities — and which Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance would like to alter again under their peace plan.

With the prospect of war in the former Yugoslav republic continuing for years if America does not endorse the Geneva scheme quickly, the peace negotiators might see a more apt Bosnia analogy in Jonathan Swift: *So naturalists observe a flea With smaller fleas that on him prey And these have smaller fleas to bite 'em And so proceed ad infinitum.*

Washington now stands against the United Nations, the European Community, a nervous and historically pro-Serb Russia, and even China. This leaves the warring factions to lobby for those parts of American or Vance-Owen policy which please them most, increasing the transatlantic rift in the process.

The Clinton administration

says that it is wary of the Vance-Owen plan mainly because it sees it as rewarding "ethnic cleansing" by giving some Bosnian territory to the Serbs and because it fears having to put American troops on the ground to police a deal. However, those involved in the peace process believe that

COMMENTARY

the reluctance of Washington stems at least in part from ignorance of the Geneva plan. It is also possible that the United States is anxious to preserve its status as the last superpower and would not like to see any new power blocs developing in the search for a Balkan solution, for instance between Russia and Germany and/or China.

America is now considering appointing a special envoy to try to renegotiate the Vance-Owen plan instead of pressing for the lifting of the arms embargo against the former Yugoslav republics. It has also abandoned for the moment the idea of seeking a United Nations resolution giving the West the right to bomb Serb airfields and other military

targets in an attempt to enforce the no-fly zone. The administration has come to believe that any allied aerial bombardment of Serb targets, whether in Bosnia or Serbia and Montenegro, would probably be extremely ineffective without ground-troop back-up because of the terrain and the classic inability of air power to defeat ground forces. This was evident in the Gulf war, even though the terrain and conventional nature of the Iraqi enemy forces should have made air attacks more effective than they would be against guerrilla gun emplacements in the mountains of Bosnia.

Far from helping the victims of the war in Bosnia, any such forcible "peacemaking" could spur Serbs to even greater belligerence. They are extremely nationalistic and even opposition leaders regarded as friendly by the West — such as Vuk Draskovic of the Serbian Renewal Movement and the leaders of the Social Democratic Party — say that they will never relinquish Kosovo or abandon their ethnic brothers in the Serb-held Croatian enclave of Krajina.

Serbia is not as disunited as the West would like to think.



Scraps of life: a Bosnian child picks through rubbish for food in Sarajevo. Delayed or cancelled UN convoys have cut the amount of relief food available

Mobsters 'used' FBI boss

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

J. EDGAR HOOVER, the jowly, tough-talking hard man who ran the FBI for nearly 50 years, was allegedly also a flamboyant gay transvestite who called himself "Mary" and whose sexual proclivities left him at the mercy of Mafia blackmailers.

That, at least, is one of the more remarkable claims made in a new biography of the FBI chief, *Official and Confidential: The Secret Life of J. Edgar Hoover* by the former BBC journalist Anthony Summers.

Hoover's alleged homosexuality has long been hinted at by other biographers, but Mr

Summers cites evidence which he says shows that the late FBI director was gay and that he protected mobsters for decades out of fear that they would reveal photographs of him engaged in homosexual acts. In extracts from the book published this month in *Vanity Fair* magazine, Mr Summers quotes associates of known Mafia leaders saying that compromising photographs were used to prevent Hoover from clamping down on organised crime.

The author quotes Seymour Pollock, an associate of the crime boss Meyer Lansky, as

saying: "The homosexual thing was Hoover's Achilles' heel... Meyer found it and it was like he pulled strings with Hoover. He never bothered any of Meyer's people." Mr Summers speculates that the photographs, which have never surfaced, may have been passed to the Mafia by Hoover's rivals and enemies at the Office of Strategic Services, the forerunner of the CIA.

Habitually clad in the rather severe grey suit favoured by FBI agents, on less formal occasions Hoover is said to have chosen a black dress with flounces, lace stockings, high heels and a curly wig.

Mediator reflects on long week of recriminations

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

LORD Owen had regained a certain peace of mind by yesterday morning, as he pored over maps and documents in his conference room on the 33rd floor of the United Nations headquarters, after a gruelling week in which he was the target of vitriolic criticism in the American press.

"We are through the main problem," he said, after days of trying to persuade the US administration to back the Bosnian peace plan that he and Cyrus Vance have been negotiating in Geneva for the past five months. "We have just got the little matter of getting Dr Karadzic [the Bosnian Serb leader] to sign up, and the Muslims." Lord Owen arrived in New York at lunchtime on Monday with Mr Vance, who served as Secretary of State under President Carter, to pitch their peace package to the Clinton administration. It immediately became clear that they had done little in advance to seek all-important American backing, despite Mr Vance's close ties to the new administration.

Even before meeting Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, on Monday evening, Lord Owen had appeared on the Cable News Network. "The US administration has to decide where it is on this peace proposal: whether it backs it or not," he said. Lord Owen's strategy has been to take the argument directly to the American people in an effort to press the Clinton administration to accept the peace package and thus force the Muslim-led

Bosnian government to do the same. At the meeting with Mr Christopher, Lord Owen and Mr Vance were taken aback by the depth of the Secretary of State's apparent ignorance of their proposals.

It was that frustrating meeting with Mr Christopher, attended by only one other State Department official, that set the tone for the rest of the week. Lord Owen went straight to dinner with an old friend, R.W. Apple, the Washington bureau chief of *The New York Times*. The discussion over dinner was reproduced on the front page of Wednesday's *New York Times* under the headline "Mediator is Upset at US Reluctance over Bosnia Talks." Lord Owen was quoted as telling Mr Apple: "It's the best settlement you can get, and it's a bitter irony to see the Clinton people block it." Later in the piece, Lord Owen complained that Mr Christopher "didn't really take in what I was saying."

On Thursday, *The New York Times* editorial called Lord Owen "as vain as he is smart," and spoke of a "cheeky, almost condescending lecture to a new American president".

Asked to speak to the cameras at UN headquarters to respond to the editorial, Lord Owen seemed chastened and, with a wry smile, refused. Later, word circulated that the Americans would in future only deal with Mr Vance, formerly Mr Christopher's boss in the Carter administration. By Thursday evening, the United States seemed to be shuffling on board.

New US trade moves threaten Land-Rover

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

BILL Clinton's administration is on the verge of a decision that could wreck Land-Rover's substantial North American operation and escalate trade tensions between the US and both Europe and Japan to dangerous new levels. European officials who have lobbied in Washington are "not very hopeful" of the outcome.

Under intense pressure from America's "big three" carmakers, the White House is about to raise import duties on minivans and similar vehicles from 2.5 per cent to 25 per cent. The purpose would be to curb Japanese imports, but it would also affect both Land-Rover and Volkswagen.

A senior Land-Rover official said yesterday that the increased tariffs would add nearly \$7,000 to the \$44,200

(£30,690) price of a Range Rover, possibly halving sales in the British company's biggest overseas market and raising serious questions about the viability of Land-Rover North America. Thirty per cent of all Range Rovers are sold in the US.

Diplomats also see the decision as the first real test of the new administration's approach to international trade, its recent adverse decisions on steel and telecommunications issues having been legacies from the Bush administration.

Both the Japanese and the EC are preparing complaints under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade should the new duties be imposed. The EC would be prepared to retaliate in an attempt to nip in the bud a US drift towards protectionism.

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CONTINUOUS INNOVATION IN RETAIL

Clinton ready to name successor to Baird

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton is expected to nominate federal judge Kimba Wood to head the Justice Department as attorney-general. *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times* reported yesterday.

Since the withdrawal last month of his first nominee, the Connecticut lawyer, Zoe Baird, Mr Clinton has been pressed to keep a pledge women's groups said he made during the transition period of naming a woman as the nation's senior law enforcement official.

Unnamed administration officials told the papers that Mr Clinton was awaiting the results of a background check on Ms Wood by the FBI before making the announcement. Mr Clinton and his wife, Hillary, have interviewed Ms Wood and are impressed with her, officials said.

Ms Wood, 49, is a Manhattan federal judge since former President Reagan appointed her to the federal bench in 1988. Before that she was an anti-trust and litigation attorney for a New York law firm.

As federal judge, Ms Wood is best known for sentencing junk-bond financier Michael Milken to 10 years in prison. She later reduced the sentence to two years in recognition of Milken's cooperation with federal prosecutors.

Ms Wood is a Democrat and a graduate of Connecticut College and Harvard Law

School. She is married to *Time* magazine writer Michael Kramer, has a young son and does not have a "nanny problem," as one administration official quoted in *The Washington Post* put it. Ms Baird's withdrawal was forced by the disclosure that she had hired two illegal aliens as domestic



Wood: FBI checking her background

help. Other finalists for the coveted cabinet post were Washington lawyer Charles Ruff and former Virginia governor Gerald Baliles.

● Bill signed: Mr Clinton has signed a Family Leave Bill, twice vetoed by President Bush, that gives workers up to 12 weeks' unpaid leave for family emergencies.

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Monthly Income	7.30	5.48
balances £25,000 and over	7.00	5.25
Monthly Income	6.75	5.06
balances £10,000 and over	6.70	5.03
Monthly Income	6.50	4.88
PLATINUM KEY		
balances £25,000 and over	5.55	4.16
Monthly Income	5.40	4.05
balances £10,000 and over	4.90	3.68
Monthly Income	4.75	3.56
balances £500 and over	4.40	3.30
Monthly Income	4.30	3.23
GOLDEN KEY & CASHKEY		
balances £25,000 and over	4.70	3.53
balances £10,000 and over	4.30	3.23
balances £5,000 and over	3.65	2.74
balances £1,000 and over	3.10	2.33
balances £500 and over	2.10	1.58
balances below £500	0.50	0.38
FUTURE KEY	0.50	0.38

OTHER ACCOUNTS: Interest rates on accounts no longer available to new investors have also been reduced and will be fully advertised on 7th February 1993.

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UK's economic ills make France fear for European union

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

YOU can read it as desperation or Schadenfreude, but the sound from Paris over recent days unmistakably has been that of gloating.

With rare unity, French leaders and pundits of left and right have focused their gaze across the Channel, noting the mess, as they see it, of Britain's economy. "Britain is going down a dead-end path," Pierre Bérégovoy, the prime minister, said after the pound came in for another bashing while the franc was freed, thanks to the Bundesbank, from onrushing devaluation.

In a condescending editorial yesterday, the conservative *Figaro* reduced John Major's travails to a fairy tale, saying that he had given the world a moral lesson in exactly how not to run a country. "When you forget the economy, it will always take its revenge."

Behind the gloating, however, it is not hard to detect a degree of anguish. For all its prosperity, France is being forced to confront an unpleasant possibility: its long-cherished notion of European union may be slipping away to be replaced by the British model. The *douche écossaise*, as "cold shower" is appropriately called in French, has been applied by the Hoover affair and the money markets.

For years, France has viewed Europe and its Maastricht corollary as a way of fashioning Europe in its own image: a centralised apparatus where a close-knit team of government bureaucrats and industry leaders, whether in public or private sector, guide the economy in what they consider to be the best interests of the nation.

Say "Europe" and one of the first images to spring to the French mind is "protection". The 12 nations would join in

French businessmen have committed the heresy of saying the franc should float. The notion is attracting support

safeguarding their markets and costly welfare regimes from "unfair" competition, mainly from America and the Far East. Inside its frontiers, France offers a good example of protection. Prices in a range of products, from air fares and telephones to books and anything bought at the chemist, are kept artificially high. Unified Europe, however, seems to be turning out more and more like the British vision of a free trade zone ruled by the laws of the market.

Signs of trouble came last year with the reform of the common agricultural policy, unfavourable to France's pampered farmers, and then the associated row over the farm accounts between the European Community and the US that penalised them further.

This week, the pained outcry over Hoover and two similar cases has been sparked by the French realisation that, with the tariff walls down, jobs will flow to where labour is cheapest. France is ill equipped to compete because employers must pay 46p in "social charges" for every pound in wages, the second highest level in Europe after Italy's 50p. In Britain, derided by France as a Third World state, the figure is a mere 30p and of course wages are also lower. The Socialist government and the leaders of its likely conservative successor next month are committed to keeping up the generous welfare payments financed by the payroll charges.

The unpleasant truth is also being rammed home by the plight of the franc in what is left of the European monetary system. Germany's decision to

cut two key interest rates on Thursday was hailed as manna from heaven by the politicians who subscribe to the policy of the strong franc.

However, the markets and suffering French businessmen acknowledge that it will amount to a mere respite which may or may not tide the franc over until the elections late next month. To preserve the franc, key interest rates in France have been held at a stilling 13.5 per cent despite incipient recession.

Lack of confidence in the franc means that the rates must still be kept well above the German level, choking new investment and driving up unemployment. It is only a matter of time, economists say, before the effort fails. Moreover, about 70 per cent of French businessmen told a poll last month that they hoped the next government would allow the currency to float, giving them cheaper credit.

The next government's likely leaders, however, have spent the week promising to do no such thing. Edouard Balladur, the Gaullist who is already being treated as prime minister-elect, has committed himself to preserving the franc, and the path to monetary union.

Conservative protesters lack conviction, though. One of the most outspoken dissidents in their ranks, Philippe Seguin, leader of the anti-Maastricht campaign, committed the sacrilege yesterday of suggesting that France would do better by aligning itself with London. "I am against the slippery slope of the single currency,"



Close encounter: Andrés Sánchez, a Spanish junior bullfighter, kneels dramatically in the sand to come face to face with his second opponent on the first day of the fair at Valdemorillo. This event is traditionally the start of the Spanish bullfighting season

Soviet arms going for bargain prices

FROM ROBERT SEELY IN KHARKOV

MORE than £1.4 billion worth of Soviet arms, including some of the most modern equipment, was this week put out to tender privately in Kharkov in the largest bargain basement sale of its kind yet in the former Soviet Union.

The armaments, which come from Russia and could be enough to equip a national army, have been offered at rock-bottom prices. They were dumped for quick sales by an industrial exchange based in this grey, industrial city in the eastern Ukraine.

Eighty T62 and T64 tanks are being offered at £140,000 to £160,000 each, while MiG jets are being sold at a fly-away price of \$11 million. T80B tanks, reckoned to be unsurpassed in the world, are selling for £1.4 million each.

The offer has been arranged through a joint venture called Ukrainian-Siberian Universal Exchange, a holding company which runs 22 other firms throughout the former Soviet Union. The company's weekly bulletin, which normally offers everything from metal to cigarettes and soap, this week contained two A4 pages of arms ranging from Yak bombers, dozens of rockets and missile systems, to diesel-powered submarines.

The sellers' identities, said Igor Taranov, the president of the arms exchange, are a commercial secret as will be their final destinations. "The conditions of sale are that if bought, all the weapons must be taken out of the country," Mr Taranov said.

Leonid Kuchma, Ukraine's prime minister, said he was unaware of the sale and promised an investigation.

Yeltsin's referendum plan turns into a poison chalice

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin's arch-rival for power, parliamentary speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov, yesterday accused the Russian leader of losing control of government and "failing to cope with his duties". He told Carl Bildt, the Swedish prime minister, in Moscow that Mr Yeltsin had "forced the April referendum on the constitution on us and now does not know how to get out of the situation".

Mr Yeltsin originally planned the referendum to control conflicting authorities which are paralysing effective government and reform in Russia. But now the measure threatens, not just his own power, but democracy and unity in the Russian Federation. He himself has said that the referendum "will be decisive for the fate of Russia".

A round-table of moderate conservative forces, including Mr Khasbulatov and Alexander Rutskoi, the vice-president, yesterday called for the referendum to be abandoned, and Mr Khasbulatov demanded once again that early presidential and parliamentary elections should be held in the spring of next year. Vladimir Shumeiko, the first deputy prime minister and a leading reformer, told the meeting that a referendum was necessary to end the confrontation between government and parliament.

Unfortunately for Mr Yeltsin, more and more democratic supporters of reform are also turning against the referendum, arguing either that it will be wrecked by parliament or that it will set a bad precedent for presidential government by plebiscite. Instead, they are calling for a constituent assembly, and asking that if the referendum takes place, a question to that effect should be included.

In Russia, as in most of the former Soviet republics, the lack of a new constitution is a significant factor in political

turnout. In the Soviet Union, the Communist party held all real power, so there was no need clearly to delineate the roles of the legislature and the executive. But now in many republics, the supreme soviets or parliaments have arrogated to themselves executive powers which in most democracies would strictly be within



Yeltsin: under attack from arch-rival

the sphere of the government. This has given Mr Khasbulatov the chance to set himself up as an alternative source of state authority. Parliament's agreement to the referendum was one of the few concessions extracted by Mr Yeltsin during the Congress in December, and it now looks like a poisoned chalice.

If the referendum were to be worded as Mr Yeltsin hopes, it would give the people a clear

choice between a presidential and a parliamentary form of government. In this case, he would be almost sure to win, because unpopular as his government is becoming, the Supreme Soviet, viewed by most Russians as a useless and corrupt talking-shop, is even more so.

Recent opinion polls show that a small majority of Russians favour an authoritarian government if this would help to stabilise the worsening economic situation. By winning a referendum, President Yeltsin could hope not just to get a constitution of his liking but to greatly strengthen his personal authority by going directly to the people over the heads of the conservative dominated parliament.

There is no chance, however, that the Supreme Soviet will allow such a clear question. Instead, the key issues are being buried in a list of questions stretching for three pages and including such self-evident points as "should Russia be a sovereign state?"

So there is a strong likelihood that a bewildered, apathetic and impoverished population will show their disgust with the entire political process by staying away en masse. If this happens, observers have warned, the chief damage will be to Mr Yeltsin, because his entire position is based on his supposed direct links to the Russian people, by whom he was elected.

Polluted Budapest coughs up car grants

BY GERARD DAVIES IN BUDAPEST

EASTERN Europe is choked by pollution this winter, and in Budapest a chief culprit is the Trabant, the box-like car from the communist era whose two-stroke engine offers low power and high toxicity.

The Hungarian capital, where one in five cars is a Trabi, is to consider donating a lump sum to owners helping them to exchange their vehicles for less polluting models. Those unable to afford a new car but who wish to keep their Trabis or equally toxic sisters, Wartburgs, are to be offered discounts to fit catalytic converters. Other owners will be offered free public transport for two years or shopping vouchers as an incentive.

Last year, Renault offered £1,000 discounts to owners who traded in their Trabis for a Western car, but only 600 drivers in Budapest came forward. Those behind the new project hope it will bring fresh air to a city where carbon dioxide levels reach twice the permitted limit.

Reputed Mafia boss seized

BY PHILIP WILLAN IN ROME

AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF GIUSEPPE Montalto, believed to be one of the leading figures in the Sicilian Mafia, was arrested in Sicily yesterday. He was seized in an early morning raid at a luxury villa on the outskirts of the capital, Palermo, where he had been living with his wife and three children.

A fugitive for almost 10 years, Montalto, 34, was a close associate of Salvatore "Totò" Riina, arrested in Palermo last month after nearly a quarter of a century on the run. Montalto is said to be a member of the "cupola" — a board of directors governing the various clans.

A police helicopter monitored the raid. Hearing the noise, Montalto took refuge in a secret cubbyhole in a bathroom but police found him. He asked to be allowed to hug his children before going.

Montalto was sentenced to six years in his absence at the first of the mass Mafia "maxi-trials" in Palermo in the 1980s, accused of ordering the killing of Salvo Lima, a Euro-



Lawful entry: Giuseppe Montalto being escorted into a police car yesterday after his arrest near Palermo

pean parliament delegate, last March.

The relief felt at yesterday's arrest was reflected in Rome on another issue when the Italian government survived a confidence vote called by the opposition Democratic Party of the Left which is expected to sanction its survival until a

referendum on electoral reform at the end of April. The vote was called by the Democrats after a corruption scandal appeared to undermine the position of the government and in particular, of Giuliano Amato's Socialist party. The vote was 321-255 in favour of the government.

Austria clings to neutrality as power blocks crumble

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN VIENNA

Few countries feel as challenged by the end of the Cold war as Austria, and for few is the new orientation towards the West and membership of the European Community so important or so destructive of the old political framework.

As Franz Vranitzky, the chancellor, said in an interview with *The Times*, the role of neutral intermediary between rival power blocks, played by Austria with such success for 36 years, was suddenly made redundant in 1989. Many people have not yet come to terms with the changed conditions.

The opening of the borders in the East has brought tough competition: Poles, Czechs and Hungarians have far lower manufacturing costs. Vienna has lost its importance as a listening post for Eastern Europe. The whole concept of neutrality, developed two years after the 1953 state treaty as a way of protecting Austrian interests, has become superfluous.

No wonder, Herr Vranitzky said, many people are now uneasy, unsure about the future, worried about unemployment. The scapegoat, as so often, was the foreigner.

That explained why more than 417,000 people signed the recent petition to halt immigration. "It does not mean that we are more hostile to foreigners than others. It is a whole complex of worries."

Austria, he says, is a country which only really found its identity after the second world war. The first republic, built on the remnants of empire, was a country no one wanted, one that none of its own citizens believed in.

After the period of Nazi rule, Austria's room for manoeuvre was strictly limited by the East-West conflict: neutrality was the only way to adjust to a situation where either of the two military blocs could have marched through the country at any time. The East-West conflict has not ended, he insisted, citing Serbia, Russia and the West. But there is no longer a danger of a war between NATO and the Warsaw Pact. "In that sense therefore neutrality as a security concept is no longer valid."

Herr Vranitzky said Austria, unlike Germany, did not have constitutional difficulties about joining European partners in military opera-

tions: its forces had long been engaged with the United Nations. But neutrality still meant standing aside from bloc pacts such as NATO which were set up to wage war.

Jörg Haider, the populist leader of the maverick Freedom party, has just come out decisively against Austria joining European Community governed by Maastricht. In the light of his failure to win support for his anti-foreigner campaign, he sees this as a new area to exploit.

Herr Vranitzky dismisses him as an opportunist. But he admits the application for Community membership will not be smooth. Many Austrians now wonder why the country should throw the strong schilling, which is tied to the mark, into the turbulence of the European monetary system.

The government was more alarmed by Herr Haider's petition than it admitted. The polarisation of opinion would make harder changes of political direction and an "anti-foreigner" image would have damaged Austria's acceptance in the EC. "We came through," Herr Vranitzky said. "We are relieved."

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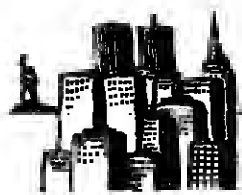
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Alexander Chancellor in New York



At best political correctness can express respect for the disadvantaged, at worst its hypocrisy is repulsive

Political correctness is about the use of language or gesture to pretend that the world is how you would like it to be, as opposed to how it is. There are grey areas, of course. Was, for example, last night's nomination of Lady Thatcher as "Woman of the Year" by the Palm Beach, Florida, chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation an act of political correctness, or had she already earned the honour in some way? A better example this week was the announcement by the New York Zoological Society that the city's four zoos are to be renamed wildlife conservation parks. By no stretch of the imagination could the charming little zoo at the bottom of Central Park, with its collection of monkeys and penguins and sea lions for children to gawp at, be thought to be serving the purpose of wildlife conservation. But the idea of keeping animals in captivity for human enjoyment is now generally perceived as so abhorrent that the zoological authorities felt they had to pretend they were doing something completely different. (Had the directors of the New York Zoological Society studied *The Official Political Correct Dictionary and Handbook*, which is on sale in the humour departments of New York bookshops, they might have pulled back from this decision. The last entry in the book's section on Bureaucratically Suitable Language — language used by officials to mask oppressive activities — is "Wildlife Management", defined as "killing or permitting the hunting of animals" and illustrated with a photograph of a hunter clasp the antlers of a slain deer.)

Political correctness may often be a substitute for any serious efforts to fight social wrongs. But it can at best represent a wish that such wrongs did not exist and a desire to show some sort of respect for the disadvantaged and the oppressed.

There are examples, however, which are repulsive in their hypocrisy, and one such is the little loop of red ribbon which people wear on their lapels as a symbol of their solidarity with the victims of Aids. As is so often the case, the idea of the red ribbon was not an ignoble one. It was intended to keep this killer disease in the forefront of people's minds, just as the yellow ribbon was used in America and Britain to create awareness of the plight of the western hostages in Beirut. But now the red ribbon has become a mere fashion accessory.

It was finally consecrated as such at the annual award ceremony of the American Fashion Industry, conducted last Monday with much

extravagance and hoopla in the State Theatre at the Lincoln Centre. As usually happens on such occasions, there were a couple of "special awards". One was to the late Audrey Hepburn, in recognition not of her acting but of her general stylishness. The other was to a design group called Visual Aids for having invented the red ribbon, which was, with breathtaking tastelessness, cited as the most innovative fashion accessory of the year. I was at the same table at the awards dinner as a photographer, David Seidner, an Aids sufferer himself, who has written for next week's *New Yorker* about the disgust he feels at the way the red ribbon has contrived to trivialise the Aids tragedy. I share his feelings.

You seldom see anybody in the street wearing the ribbon, but it is visible everywhere at the preposterously lavish charity dinners and galas which take place with desperate frequency in New York. It is pinned to the breast of almost every aspiring model or starlet and to the dinner-jacket of almost every movie or television mogul. And it is a symbol not so much of the wearer's commitment to ending the plague of Aids but of his or her desire to appear on the side of the angels — to be politically correct, in fact.

To conclude on a less distasteful note, I can report that New York is already in a lath-er of excitement about St Valentine's Day. Hundreds of shop windows are already decorated with paper hearts, and even the New York Telephone Company is attempting to cash in on the season of love by advertising a facility known as "call waiting" by which you can put an interlocutor on hold and talk to somebody else if a beep on the line indicates that another call has come in. On scores of telephone booths around the city there is a sign which reads "Every time there's a busy signal somebody doesn't get to say I love you."

It is a message which is designed to increase the myriad fantasies and anxieties to which New Yorkers are prey and to induce depression in the millions who haven't got, or can't afford, a "call waiting" facility. But a spokeswoman for the advertising agency which created the slogan has been trying belatedly to cool the romantic fervour. "You might want to say 'I love you' to a friend, even," she said. "Everybody in our society thinks those words have to be passionate, but they don't."

The author edits the *New Yorker's* "Talk of the Town".

An exposé of the gloomy world of Kremlin wives is a bestseller in Moscow, says Anne McElvoy

Whatever indignities America's first ladies have suffered in the course of their husbands' careers they are nothing compared to the fear, misery and tedium experienced by the Kremlin spouses. Larissa Vasilyeva's book *Kremlin Wives*, a jumble of facts, memoirs, and wild speculation about the women who accompanied their men to positions of absolute power in the Soviet Union, is so popular that it is sold in bookshops on the capital's pavements (an honour hitherto reserved for other Russian bestsellers, *The Joy of Sex*).

The Bolsheviks had a saying that love was like a glass of water — "drink it, forget it and get on with the real business of building communism". Vasilyeva believes that the wives of the Soviet leadership, far from deserving the envy they provoked among the general populace, were pitiful creatures and the most immediate victims of their husbands' paranoid and repressive regimes. "Once they were swallowed by the Kremlin there were only two options open to them: the kitchen or the cell."

According to Vasilyeva, Stalin's second wife, Nadezhda Alliluyeva, revealed her deep unhappiness to a friend, the wife of the later foreign minister Molotov, saying that her husband was "rude, rough and unfair" and uninterested in sex. Her death in 1932 is still shrouded in mystery — Stalin allowed no investigation after she was found shot, either by his or her own hand. Nina Beria, wife of Stalin's philandering police chief, ended up in solitary confinement after her husband's execution.

Viktoria Brezhnev spent her days of grandeur cooking for her burly husband — "he loved my jams, pickles, soured fruits and vegetables"

— while he regularly sauntered off to satisfy his other appetites elsewhere. Now 84 and tucked away on a remote housing estate surrounded by former KGB families, she emerges as a simple girl from the provinces, who never adapted to the opulence of Kremlin life, and hated foreign travel.

Vasilyeva's credentials for this book are sound. As designer of the T44 tank, her father had privileged status, and she grew up with access to high-grade gossip about the leaders. Later, as a stalwart of the Writers' Union and the wife of a former *Izvestia* correspondent in London, she enjoyed the trust of the élite's families, knew Nina Khrushchev and inter-

viewed both Chernenko and Brezhnev's wives, was on good terms with Raisa Gorbachev and ferreted out descendants and relatives of the earlier leaders — no small feat even today. "Kremlin families are doubly secretive," she says. "First in the way that all political families in a dictatorship are and secondly because they have fallen from grace and now live in a hostile society." When the KGB files opened after the coup she was allowed ten days alone amid the Lubyanka files.

Vasilyeva rebuts the popular view that the élite, once established at the helm of Soviet society, were guaranteed a life of ease. "They were never privileged in their own right but

merely as representatives of the power of their country," she says. "The state gave and the state took away. They had everything, but it never belonged to them. Even their knives and forks were the property of the Kremlin. When their husbands died they were left with nothing except KGB surveillance." The secret service took a particular interest in spouses, distrusting their knowledge of health problems and other weaknesses.

But what of Raisa who tripped across the world stage, dressed in Yves St Laurent and clutching Gucci handbags? According to Vasilyeva, her fate is the saddest of all because she alienated herself from her own people. "The men didn't like her pushiness because they feared that it might encourage their own wives to go the same way. The women were angry because she looked so young. Why, she didn't have to stand in queues in all weather to get food and clothes. She is slim because she has a good diet, and so on. Raisa just reminded them of how miserable their own lives were."

Powerless behind the Soviet throne

How not to run a railway

MacGregor's bill is merely the latest disaster to afflict this benighted industry

Requiescat in pace British Rail. I don't think a greater humiliation has ever been meted out to a public institution than John MacGregor's speech on rail privatisation on Tuesday. This majestic titan of the iron road is not even being marched honourably to the scaffold. It is damned to a lingering death in the salt mines as a "rump operator".

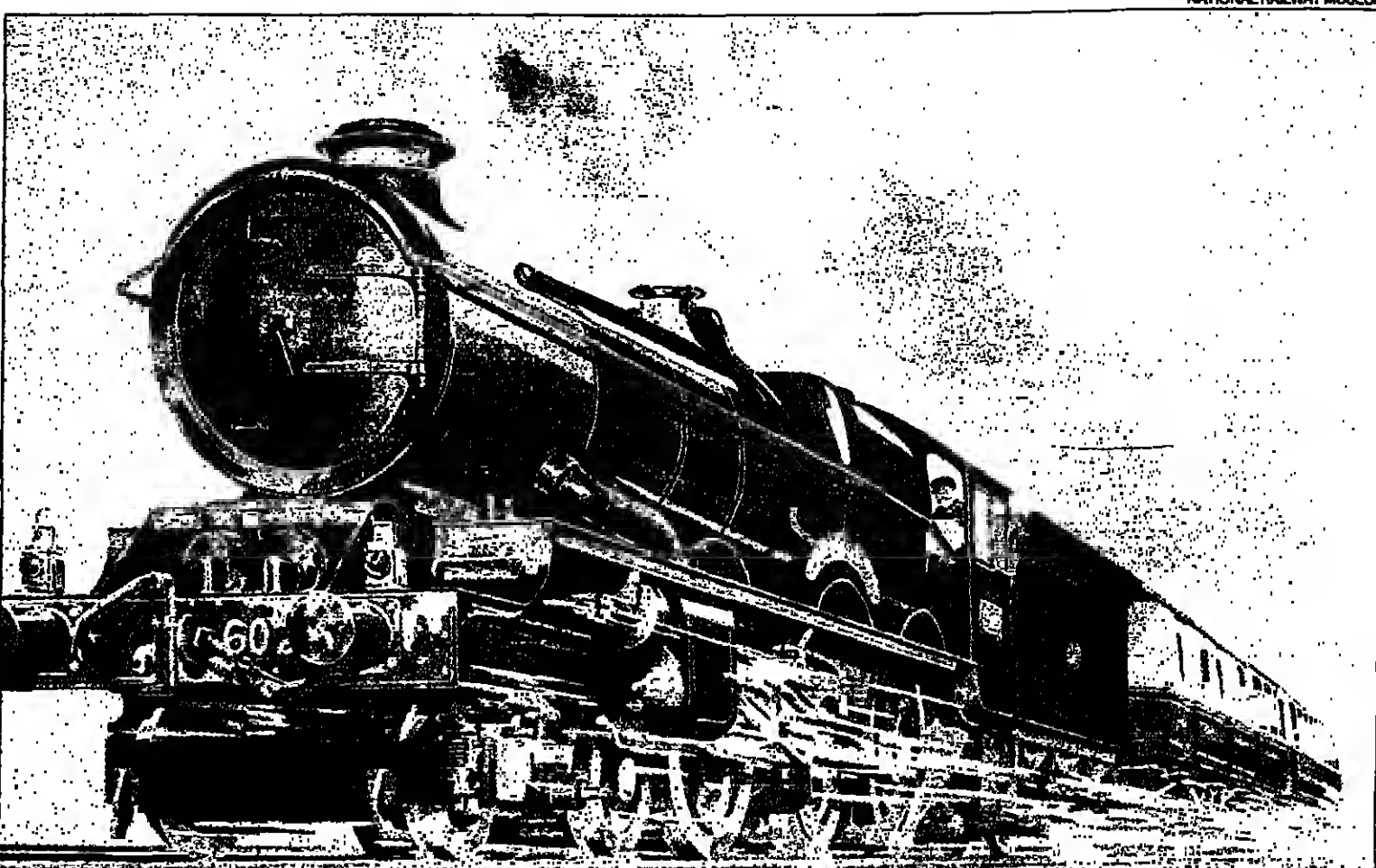
I declare an interest. I sat on the BR board throughout the 1980s and was an (albeit dissident) party to this tragedy. I watched BR hurdle down the track, refusing to apply brakes even when it knew Malcolm Rifkind and then Mr MacGregor were tearing the rails up ahead. The board reorganised and upheaved itself without ceasing. It never sat still.

The final elimination of the old regions did not happen until 1990, 40 years after supposed "nationalisation". This ruthless process incidentally stripped the railway of local identity and loyalty, of a sort so useful to regiments and hospitals under threat. BR thought that by making friends in Whitehall it needed none elsewhere.

I have no doubt that had BR chosen in the mid-1980s to make the regions devolved profit centres, it would have averted the catastrophe of "vertical disintegration". But the centre seized ever more control to out costs. The first Sir Bob Reid made BR the most efficient high railway in Europe. But his centralisation left BR prey to Whitehall, top heavy and ultimately vulnerable. It also made easier the selling of prime property assets, undermining eventual privatisation. BR bit off its nose to spite its face.

No sensible person could doubt that, if BR is to be broken up, it should be done "clean" along the old regional lines of route. Over 90 per cent of journeys are down a regional corridor. Regional assets can be easily defined for sale. This was acknowledged by all the myriad surveys of privatisation (other than those paid for by BR). All without exception agreed that a track authority was the worst model. The railway's managers had to be freed to manage the whole business from top to bottom. There were too many saboteurs — union officials, government inspectors, transfer pricing accountants — to risk fragmented responsibility.

Yet we have the monstrosity of a new public corporation, Railtrack. Why? I suppose the answer lies in the Treasury's latest fad, the self-financing quango that it can control but



SPEED TO THE WEST
CORNWALL DEVON SOMERSET WALES

Mayo's classic poster painting of 1939 captured the spirit of the line: can another Great Western rise from the ashes of privatisation?

Simon Jenkins

need not finance. Railtrack will fix everything from timetables to how long a train is held on amber. It will then tax the train operators for its full costs, a tax of almost half their revenue. The operators will turn bowling to the taxpayer. As Mr MacGregor blithely puts it, "If bidders cannot afford the access price, it will be subsidised by the franchising director."

I could scarce believe my ears at this, surely the most devious route to subsidy inflation yet devised by man: a Whitehall job creation scheme par excellence. Track and signalling costs that BR has spent ten years fighting to cut will now fatten beyond its control, fed by an unholy alliance of trade unions, engineers and safety lobbyists. (Management students will ponder this classic of intellectual "top-down" industrial restructuring of the sort that has blighted British industry.)

I give any private operator one piece of advice. Don't sign a thing without negotiating two guarantees: an open subsidy should things go wrong and a huge indemnity against

ministers imposing vast "safety costs" after any accident (as after Clapham). You can blame any end-year deficit on Railtrack performance and threaten to cut services. Ministers will be terrified.

The MacGregor reorganisation is merely the latest disaster to afflict this benighted industry. But can any good be extracted from the bill? The answer is yes, but only by vigorous amendment. Tory MPs must vote down the Railtrack monopoly at once — or be desecrated painfully one by one. I cannot believe Robert Adley is going to vote for such nonsense. Is he man or mouse?

But let us look at Mr MacGregor's cherries, one by one. Small is clearly

beautiful. The one isle of sanity is that of Wight. Its operator is to own and control his own stations, track and signalling, because they are "separate". So are those of London, Tilbury and Southend — but forgive my cheap logic. The franchising of the core of the old western region is exciting. A consortium might even one day emerge to bid for Railtrack's western region assets, restoring the integrity of Brunel's great infrastructure. Meanwhile poor British Rail is left with the branch lines. Exeter station will be a daily battleground for three corporations, two nationalised and one private. Such is madness. But the heart would be mean of spirit not to leap as God's Wonderful Railway staggers back to life.

The Portsmouth and Bournemouth franchise is almost meaningless. The trains are new, the passengers rich, exploitable and therefore in the hands of the regulator. The operator will just be a paintpot. What needs "up-market-ing" are stations and feeder lines. These are to stay under state control. As for the disposal of Scotrail, British

Rail will have a sigh of relief. Scotland has long eaten the lion's share of subsidy: it can now eat even more, but it can hit the hand of the Scottish Office instead.

Which leaves the great LNER, the late-and-never-early, the east coast "fast track" to Scotland. I am mystified at why this is to be privatised but not its historic rival, the west coast line from Euston. Where is the principle in that? Here was the one opening for truly spectacular competition on the whole network. At present the west coast line is limping. By leaving it with a rump BR, Mr MacGregor must either hugely subsidise it (and enrage the east coast operator) or kill it off. Find out which before you buy shares in LNER.

The ball now passes to Parliament. Ministers have failed the railway with a decade of interference, false signals and indecision. The bill must be changed to make it easier to privatise track. But we can be thankful that something is stirring. To move forward jerkily is better than to remain stuck in a tunnel. Any bill is better than none. Almost.

Hare today...

AS John Smith arrives in Bournemouth this weekend for the Labour local government conference, even his most enthusiastic supporters would concede that he has not made the most spectacular of starts to life as party leader.

Bournemouth Fabian Society, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary, intends to present Smith, a long-standing Fabian, with a souvenir unlikely to grace the Labour leader's Edinburgh mantelpiece: a mug decorated with a tortoise. The centenary commemorative mug will be presented to Smith tomorrow before he makes his keynote speech.

The Fabian's original tortoise was designed by Frank Horabin, Labour MP for Peterborough from 1929-1931, the man who illustrated H.G. Wells's "Outline of History". Ian Taylor, secretary of the Bournemouth society, says: "We think the tortoise is most appropriate for John Smith's style of leadership. Slow and cautious."

Ken Livingstone, Labour MP for Brent East, the Bournemouth society's favourite guest speaker, is not convinced. More an authority on amphibians than reptiles, Livingstone says: "There is an air of the preying mantis about him. Or the hunting spider. But he is not like a tortoise. He is quick-witted. He just hides it very well."

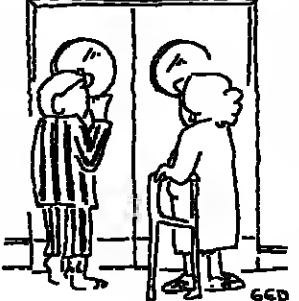
Smith can at least be consoled by the fact that the Fabian tortoise always used to appear with the legend: "When I strike I strike hard".

Disappointing news for Dominic Lawson, Lord Lawson and other outsiders mooted for editorship of *The Economist*. The shortlist went up in the news magazine's St James's office yesterday with insiders beating external candidates 9-0. Favourites, according to an insider, remain Nico Colchester, deputy editor and Bill Emmott, business editor. Also listed for the March preliminary interview is Matt Ridley, Lord Ridley's nephew.

Health screens

THE debate on charging in the National Health Service, which usually centres on prescriptions and eye and dental tests, could now switch to television programmes. A hospital in South Wales has decided to charge patients £3 a day for the use of bedside television sets. Those unwilling to pay the charge at the Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport, will have to go into the communal lounge for their daily dose of soap operas. Patients too sick to get out of bed will either have to pay up or go without.

The hospital, which will become part of an NHS trust in



DIARY

April, says the rule is fair. "It is about improving facilities," says Glyn Griffiths, service development director of the Glanhafren Trust, which takes over the hospital management in April. But will it make money? Well, yes, but that will be used for other ward improvements. Such as televisions.

The scheme has gone down badly with Paul Flynn, the Labour MP for Newport West, who has tabled a motion in the Commons condemning the plan. "It takes my breath away. What will they charge for next? The air they breathe?" Well, where the BBC leads (Diary, January 27) the NHS will surely follow.

Damaged? SPARED the demands of yet another Maastricht marathon

in the Commons, cabinet ministers were out in force for Thursday night's charity premier of Louis Malle's new film, *Damage*, from the novel by Josephine Hart. Could their interest have anything to do with the film's plot, which centres on the athletic couplings of a fictional environmental minister, played by Jeremy Irons?

more than £50,000 for the Almeida Theatre in Islington, took place in front of the impeccable Princess Margaret. Geoff Brown, film critic of *The Times*, is confident that she would not have been shocked. "It is not a salacious film. I shouldn't think it's the most explicit film the royals have ever seen. Andrew's probably seen much worse things on one of his ships."

Lord Grade was among those mourning the loss yesterday of his fellow pioneer in commercial television, Lord Bernstein. "He was a great, great friend — we worked very closely together in the Fifties, when he had a franchise in Lancashire and I had one in London and the Midlands," he says. But their friendship was not always based on such an equal footing. "I first met Sidney in 1930 when I was a dancer in one of the variety acts staged at one of his cinemas. In those days films were interspersed with cabaret acts. He was very friendly even then — though of course it wasn't until I became a booking agent that we became really close."



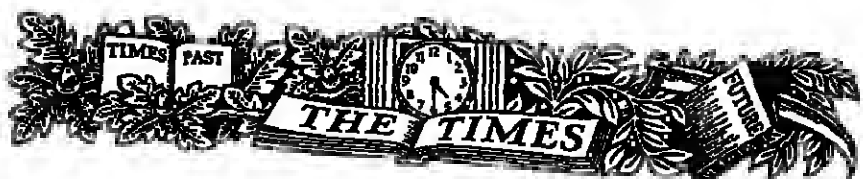
Angels: Barbara Taylor Bradford and the Princess

Soulful sisters

WHAT every woman needs — a black jumper and Patrick Demarchelier, portrait photographer extraordinaire. Barbara Taylor Bradford, a novelist, has just chosen this classic combination for the back cover of her latest romantic offering, *Angel*, to be published in June.

Demarchelier charges \$25,000 (about £17,300) a session. Taylor Bradford's insistence on him may not have amused HarperCollins, her

publishers, but it strikes the photographer's agent, Bryan Bantry, as perfectly understandable. "The point is it is a beautiful picture. Patrick always looks for the beauty of the soul and I think Barbara looks incredibly beautiful in this picture." As for its similarity to Demarchelier's shot of the Princess of Wales (for whom the fee was waived), the hands-under-chin pose is "a natural pose for his subjects".



CLINTON'S CHOICE

Russia and the West must not drift into conflict over Bosnia

The Clinton administration may have solid ideas for improving on the Vance-Owen plan for Bosnia. If so, it is time the world, or at very least the members of the UN Security Council, learnt what they are. If not, the hawking at the State Department, the Pentagon and the White House is not just unwise. It is potentially dangerous, not just to Bosnians but to international peace.

Idealism, seldom lacking in freshly-minted American administrations and prominent in this one, can find plenty to criticise in this blueprint. The new Bosnia, a federal, demilitarised state with a weak central government, will be fragile. Its hopes of communal stability and its very existence will be heavily dependent on international support. That is precisely why America cannot stand aloof.

Warren Christopher, the new Secretary of State, has suggested that the plan's ethnically-based cantons constitute an appeasement of Serb aggression. This betrays some unfamiliarity with Bosnian demography. If anything it is Bosnia's Croats who have gained most; land-mass is in any case no guide to fairness in the distribution of assets between mainly peasant Serbs and largely urban Bosnian Muslims. Cantonisation is still a defeat of sorts for civilised values, given the cultural tolerance which distinguished Bosnia-Herzegovina before the fighting started. But these values will take years to recuperate after so vicious a war. The Vance-Owen plan has the merit of providing a basis on which to begin.

President Clinton has the power to kill the Vance-Owen strategy: either by withholding his support, or by declining to press the Bosnian government to agree to the plan, or even by delay. Perhaps more pertinently to the musings in the White House, American involvement, military as well as diplomatic, will be needed to get it launched. Behind the high-minded caveats against appeasing aggressors, reluctance to send American troops to Bosnia may be the true source of White House vacillation. He is considering appointing an envoy to redraw the Vance-Owen map. That could take months. And no

minor modifications to the plan — all that the US can realistically seek without destroying it — will rescue America from the tough decision about sending troops.

Mr Clinton needs to weigh with urgency the costs to international security of any alternatives to putting America's full weight behind the Vance-Owen plan. He has toyed with arming the Bosnian government forces to defend themselves. He needs to be clear about what that would mean. First, it would have to be done unilaterally, not through the Security Council, where Britain and France would join the Russians in a veto. Second, such unilateral American action would lead to the total collapse of both economic and military embargoes against Serbia — with Russia arming the Serbs.

What should above all concern Washington, and the world, is that every day that fighting continues in the Balkans increases the risk that Russia and the West could find themselves, for the first time since the ending of the Cold War, in opposing camps. In Moscow, Boris Yeltsin's government is under pressure to break with the West on Bosnia. Hardline critics of Russian "subversion" to Western diplomacy can appeal to supporters of pan-Orthodox unity, to lingering fears of Germany (widely seen as suspect protector of Croatia and Slovenia) and even to Russian ill-feeling towards Muslims.

Mr Yeltsin, bravely, is being resolute for peace. He supports the Vance-Owen plan, behind which his foreign minister has appealed to the Security Council to put "its entire weight and the power of sanctions". The best can be the enemy of the good. President Clinton may believe that America, as the world's only superpower, can make time stand still while it "reviews all of its options". He should look east, and make haste. Europe has already made the mistake of largely excluding Russia from its councils on the former Yugoslavia. Mr Clinton should settle decisively for the Vance-Owen plan. And he should call an emergency summit with Mr Yeltsin, whose weight with the Serbs is decisive, with the aim of combining forces to make it succeed.

COWS TO THE SLAUGHTER

The government should scour its cupboard for spending cuts

John Major's claim in his Carlton Club speech on Wednesday that "it is necessary from time to time to re-examine long-term trends in expenditure" seems to have been no idle boast. Next week, the Treasury will announce a root-and-branch examination of public spending in three government departments to see whether any expenditure has outlived its purpose.

The ministers concerned will doubtless quail before such scrutiny, usually they only have to justify increases in their budgets. But circumstances change, and spending ministries often do not adjust their priorities to match. It was clear enough that the end of the Cold War had changed the principles on which the defence department had worked for over 40 years: the "Options for Change" review, and its subsequent amendments, was the result. But sometimes change is slower and more subtle: the impact of falling school rolls on the education budget, for instance, or of the break-up of households on budgets for housing and social security. It is no good in these areas simply arguing once a year over increases in expenditure; the balance of total spending within each department must periodically be reassessed.

Michael Portillo, chief secretary to the Treasury, may have grander plans still. The government is in the throes of a quiet revolution, one in which it is not alone. Politicians of many parties in many countries are starting to question what governments are for and whether it needs to do all it does. One of America's most unlikely recent bestsellers was *Re-inventing Government* by David Osborne and Ted Gaebler. Their notion that government should "steer not row" has been taken up by President Clinton

in Washington and by William Waldegrave, public services minister, over here. Mr Major has a Citizen's Charter; France's started its own "Projet de Service". Canada its "Public Service 2000".

Common to all is the idea that while government should ensure many services are provided to the public, it does not always need to provide them itself. Hence the attraction of competitive tendering and market-testing. Local government savings from the former have averaged 7 per cent; and Mr Waldegrave now intends to contract out over £1 billion of central government work, about 6 per cent of departmental running costs.

More radically, government may actually start to withdraw from some services rather than simply trying to provide them a little more cheaply. Mr Major said on Wednesday that he wanted to bring private-sector capital into road-building. He should also begin to explore ways in which the government can eventually privatise much of pension provision. Universal state pensions at a decent level have already become unaffordable. Demographic trends will increase the burden. A gradual move to means-testing combined with the abandonment of the mythical contributory principle will eventually have to come in Britain, as it will in America.

Mr Portillo should therefore start his scrutiny with the premise that nothing is absolutely sacred. A radical himself, he will not find such an exercise too difficult. But he will have to use all his political skills to persuade the more hidebound members of his party that tradition in public spending is not enough.

CHARITY'S FUNNY FACE

There is nothing silly about humour in a good cause

Bathing in custard may not be everyone's idea of the way to save the world. But even those whose taste does not normally run to red plastic adornments should find it hard to be childish about Comic Relief Day — that great annual festival of goodnatured silliness which engulfs the country in indignity the better to raise money for those in need.

Charity is more often solemn than cheering, and in these years of African famine it has become associated with harrowing images of starvation and suffering. A point is reached when an audience becomes inured to constant claims on its sympathy. "Compassion fatigue" has become a cliché in the lexicon of fund-raising. Comic Relief has made giving fun. Its joyful approach applies equally to its fund-raising techniques and to its spending. Comic Relief has been particularly adept at emphasising the happy effects of its projects, with African countries being seen as places of laughter as well as pathos.

Comic Relief differs from other aid organisations in more than its public relations. Since its launch, the Red Nose appeal has raised £75 million. Every penny appeal has gone to charity. The campaign's overheads are provided by separate donors: some of them by corporate offers of equipment or stationery for its Charity

Projects office, others by individuals freely giving their expert services. No big bureaucracy has been allowed to grow.

In Africa, where two thirds of its funds are spent, Comic Relief has no established infrastructure which would be a drain on cash. Instead, it funds individual projects through existing charities. The schemes are carefully chosen for their long-term benefits. Comic Relief favours the giving of tools, seeds and oxen for ploughs to help local farmers regain their independence. The remaining third of its funds is spent in Britain, mostly on helping the disabled and the homeless. Here again, those projects which most encourage self-help are favoured: Arlington House, the hostel for the homeless in Camden Town where the residents sit on the management committee, has received a grant for three years.

The mild humiliations of Red Nose stunts do more than assuage the guilt of affluence. They bring Britons together. On March 11, people of all classes will again drown pomposity and self-importance in pools of baked beans or wear scarlet proboscises at the office. Others, badgered by their children, will affix a large red nose to the front of their cars. Let Red Nose Day once again be a celebration of voluntary service of the most honourable, and the most cheerful, kind.

'Back-door' drinks from Europe

From Mr Ben Patterson, MEP for Kent West (European Democrat (Conservative))

Sir, Mr Richard Wheeler (letter, February 2) attributes the development of an illegal "back-door" trade in wine and beer brought back by private travellers from France to "short-sighted bureaucratic incompetence". On the contrary, it is the result of a deliberate policy decision.

In his detailed draft directives of 1987 for the removal of fiscal frontiers, Commissioner Lord Cockfield proposed that excise duties on alcoholic drinks should be harmonised throughout the Community: in the cases of wine and beer, the basis was an equal tax of 17 euros per hectolitre, producing a revenue-neutral effect overall.

This was rejected by all member states, including the UK, in large part because it would have substantially limited the sovereignty of national governments and parliaments in the fiscal area. The preferred alternative was that of market forces, in which tax systems competed within a barrier-free market.

This is precisely what is now happening. Removing the legal barriers to cross-frontier shopping by private citizens — a key principle of the single market — is bound to produce pressures for the convergence of tax rates. Where the disparity in rates is wide, as is currently the case with excise duties, these pressures are augmented by the temptation to trade illegally.

It is now up to each national executive and parliament to decide for themselves whether the revenue is best protected by relatively high or by relatively low tax rates.

Yours faithfully,
BEN PATTERSON
(Vice-Chairman, European Committee),
European Parliament, MAE 828,
97-113 Rue Belliard, 1040 Brussels.
February 3.

From Mrs Lorraine Knowles

Sir, We own a small vineyard. What with Customs & Excise duty, cost of fencing, netting, spraying, pruning, processing, bottling, labour etc, any ideas we had of being commercially viable have long since vanished.

And now, not only is cheap French wine being re-sold, but in such quantities that, however excellent our English wine, with tax at £1.11 per bottle and tourists bringing in French wine taxed at a mere 2p to 9p, competition is not easy.

At the very least, the tax should be lowered and our well respected English wines be allowed to compete on equal terms with our EC "neighbours".

Yours faithfully,
LORRAINE KNOWLES,
Friston Forest Vineyard,
Sheep Pen Cottage,
West Dean, Seaford, East Sussex.
February 3.

Communion wine

From the Reverend F. W. Pugh

Sir, May I, as a retired (but still working) country parish priest set at rest the mind of Mr A. R. Hawkes (letter, January 30) on disposal of "left over" Communion wine. An experienced priest would have little more than a teaspoonful left at the end of a Communion service. This even after, say, four services he would have consumed no more than a third of a glass of wine, which is normally watered anyway — unlikely to upset the breathalysers. But, should he have left more wine than it would be wise for him to consume by himself, he is authorised by the rubric to which Mr Hawkes refers to invite other communicants to help him reverently drink it.

Yours faithfully,
F. W. PUGH,
The Cottage, Balsam Lane,
Wincanton, Somerset.

PM's libel writ

From Mr R. Howard

Sir, The editor of the *New Statesman*, writing on the reporting of gossip about John Major (letter, February 2), says: "Publicity was not our aim." However, I understand that 2,000 extra copies of that issue were printed.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN HOWARD,
8 Upfield, Crofton, Surrey.

Captain Scott's drugs

From Professor Michael J. Stock

Sir, Mr C. S. Barr (letter, January 29) mentions that Captain Scott's supplies of cocaine and opium were held by Wilson, the expedition's doctor. What about some of the other drugs he carried?

Edward Wilson trained at St George's, as did Dr Mike Stroud, who was a member of the 1985-6 "Footsteps of Scott" expedition.

While in Antarctica, Dr Stroud visited Scott's hut and photographed Wilson's quarters. These photographs are displayed in the Edward Wilson Room at St George's Medical School, and show that among the drugs above Wilson's desk are several bottles of the thyroid gland extract — the hormone thyroxine.

Quite why Wilson thought to stock

Changes in Britain's religious map

From the Vicar of Jesmond

Sir, The Archbishop of Canterbury says that the religious map of England has changed "out of all recognition" (report, February 1). Bishop Colin Buchanan ("Credo", January 30) says that "believing, worshipping Christians are a tiny handful of our nation". The facts seem to be otherwise.

The recently published *British Social Attitudes* (9th report) gives the following figures in terms of how people see themselves: 36 per cent are Anglican, 11 per cent belong to other Protestant denominations, 10 per cent are Roman Catholic and 4 per cent call themselves "Christian" but give no denomination. Only 3 per cent are members of other religions and 35 per cent have "no religion".

True, while 61 per cent are identified as Christian, only 16 per cent of the population attend a place of worship two or three times a month. But 20 per cent attend church once a month, 30 per cent several times a year and 50 per cent at some time during the year.

Twenty-seven per cent pray weekly, 17 per cent have had a "conversion" experience, and, very interestingly, only 33 per cent of the population disagree with the proposition that "right and wrong should be based on God's laws". Seventy per cent believe that there should be daily prayers in all state schools.

This is hardly a "multi-faith", non-Christian society. That is a fiction of the media, certain educationists and self-deprecating bishops and archbishops.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HOLLOWAY,
7 Otterburn Terrace,
Newcastle upon Tyne 2.
February 1.

From Mr Colin W. V. McCleery

Sir, Bishop Colin Buchanan makes a number of extremely important and valid points in connection with the debate about links between Church and state. However, one underlying assumption cannot be allowed to pass.

He infers that the 2 per cent of the population he claims as regular Anglican worshippers, and who he asserts are the Church of England, include more than a tiny minority who are familiar with the origins, doctrine, liturgical history, traditions and organisation of the Church and its orders. This inference is, in my experience, quite false.

This general ignorance is apparently fostered as a matter of policy by much of the current generation of clergy. Its inevitable effect on the constitution of parochial church councils and deanery synods (and hence General Synods) has ensured that the influence of liberal clerics, some of whom know less theology than Sunday school teachers of 100 years ago, has prevailed in recent years.

Nazis in Guernsey

From Miss M. E. Wood

Sir, I should like to support the views expressed by the Bailiff of Guernsey (letter, February 1) on the action of the island authorities in the matter of deportation of Jews by the Nazis. In the weeks after France fell, and before the Germans arrived, known Jews were advised, and urged to leave the island. I know that a number did. Officials had an unenviable task, and by no means always obeyed the Germans' demands.

My father was a rector on Guernsey and he, my mother and I were deported to Germany in September 1942. The attorney general and other prominent islanders later suffered the same fate.

I find that many of the views expressed by people who fortunately never experienced living under enemy occupation in a very small island are extremely unrealistic.

I remain, your obedient servant.
ELIZABETH WOOD,
Flat 12, Jackson-Cole House,
St Thomas Street,
Oxford.
February 1.

From Mr A. C. Gardner

Sir, The Bailiff of Guernsey challenges the statement by Mr Winston Churchill, MP, that British officials in Guernsey connived with the Germans at drawing up lists of Jews for deportation to Germany and subsequent execution in concentration camps. The Bailiff maintains that

so much thyroxine is baffling. Dr Stroud could find no reference in diaries or contemporary accounts to the use of thyroxine, or to reports of thyroid hormone deficiency. The only explanation we could produce was that Wilson knew that thyroxine stimulates heat production and thought that doses of it would protect against hypothermia.

However, high, unphysiological doses are required to achieve this effect, and produce all the other, untoward symptoms of hyperthyroidism — nervousness, irritability, palpitations and muscle-wasting. These effects would exacerbate the dire physiological and psychological stresses experienced on the return from the Pole. Perhaps thyroxine helped contribute, along with scurvy and lack of food, to the demise of the party.

Dr Stroud is now attempting the

We need look no further for reasons why the Church has lost its moral authority and is now the creature of secular fashion. If it would find its own salvation, as well as that of the souls it represents, it must get back to basics — as an established church or otherwise.

Yours faithfully,
C. W. V. MCCLEERY,
Orchard House,
Rodborough Common,
Stroud, Gloucestershire.
February 2.

From the Right Reverend Dr K. D. Say

Sir, The negative act of disestablishment is not the only alternative to maintaining the status quo. A gradual widening of the establishment has, in fact, been taking place in recent years. There has been no state service or royal wedding since 1980 in which the Cardinal and the Moderators have not taken part, together with the Archbishop. For over 30 years the bishops have not been the only religious leaders in the House of Lords, even if, sadly, appointments from the other churches have been few of late.

A process of gradual change rather than a dramatic "breaking of the chains" has so often been the preferred way in England. Three comparatively modest steps could be taken without much more ado:

1. Life peers could be nominated from the other churches to sit alongside a reduced number of bishops in Parliament.
2. The 1977 concordat on the appointment of diocesan bishops could be amended so that the first name put forward would normally be appointed, as already happens for suffragan bishops.
3. In a few years' time a royal commission could begin to look at the form of service appropriate for the next coronation, as well as at the wording of the coronation oath to be taken in a society so vastly different from that of 1953.

It might well be that such interim steps would lead eventually to the "amicable parting" of Church and state which you advocate in your leading article (January 28). But the interval would allow Crown, Church and Parliament time to prepare for what would be a far-reaching and historic decision.

It is also possible that experience of a wider establishment, coupled with developments in the Anglican Communion and in the Roman Catholic Church, could make the Church-state relationship less of what you now describe so certainly as an anomaly.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID SAY,
23 Chequers Park,
Wye, Ashford, Kent.
January 30.

when these Jews were deported to Germany in 1942 no one in Guernsey "could have known what appalling atrocities were being perpetrated by the Nazis".

This really will not do. In October 1939, within a very few weeks of the outbreak of war, HM Government had published a white paper (Cmd 6120) giving specific details of brutality being inflicted on Jews and others in Buchenwald and Dachau concentration camps.

It was based on information which had been regularly supplied by British consuls-general in Germany during 1939, and our government had been reluctant to publish it before the outbreak of war, for fear of offending German susceptibilities.

I have that white paper before me as I write, and its explicit details of torture and execution inflicted on Jews are calculated to freeze the blood. It must have been available to the administration in Guernsey in the months between publication and the German invasion.

Admittedly, the Germans did not decide on their Final Solution policy until later, but what was already known in 1939 about German brutality towards Jews should have been sufficient to prompt those on Guernsey to do everything possible to conceal the identity of Jews from the Germans who had requested the census.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN GARDNER,
8 Mill Road,
Eastbourne, East Sussex.
February 1.

first unsupported Antarctic crossing on foot with Sir Ranulph Fiennes (report, February 5), and although he is probably carrying morphine, I am sure that neither cocaine nor thyroxine is in his medical pack. I am also sure that everybody hopes this St George's doctor fares better than his famous predecessor and makes a safe return.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL J. STOCK
(Professor of Physiology),
St George's Hospital Medical School,
Department of Physiology,
Tooting, SW17.

Weekend Money letters, page 28

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

Choice of yards for Trident refit

From Lord Sanderson of Bowden

Sir, As chairman of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party, I was dismayed by your report (February 3) that the prime minister had indicated to MPs that Devonport rather than Rosyth was likely to be chosen as the location for the refitting of Trident.

From my own enquiries, I am convinced that the decision as to the yard to be chosen has yet to be fully appraised by 10 Downing Street and a decision made.

The Ministry of Defence has, I understand, asked for further comparative studies to be carried out on the respective merits of the alternative proposals put forward by both Devonport and Rosyth. This initiative means the final decision will be made only after the most exhaustive comparison between the rival proposals where like will be compared with like. I am confident that Rosyth will prove to be the better proposal on all counts for Trident refitting.

Yours sincerely,
SANDERSON OF BOWDEN,
House of Lords.

From Lord Campbell of Alloway, QC

Sir, The headline, "Devonport likely to win battle for Trident, says Major" (February 3), astounds those of us who attended the debate in the House of Lords on February 1 on the future of Rosyth. The debate was fully reported in newspapers published north of the border.

It is appropriate to point out that the dual-site option was fully supported on all sides of the House; all submarines at Rosyth, all surface ships at Devonport.

Viscount Cranborne affirmed that no decision had yet been taken, that absolute priority was for defence of the realm, and said: "The government still have to make up their mind."

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
CAMPBELL OF ALLOWAY,
2 King's Bench Walk, Temple, EC4,
February 4.

Sovereign remedies

From Mr D. J. Pugh

Sir, Mrs Beer asks (letter, February 1) what remedies of 50 years ago people could remember. I had thought that "Doctor Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People" were only a fiction, until 25 years ago in a Chinese medicine shop in Singapore I saw a small bottle of them, with the celebrated doctor in his Victorian whiskers and high collar portrayed on the label.

Yours faithfully,
D. J. PUGH,
The Hollies, 185 Mountsorrel Lane,
Rothley, Leicestershire.
February 1.

From Dr George Tee

Sir, Butler's Dr Baileman's Pectoral Drops, dating from the time of George II, and Poor Man's Friend were both still available in 1945.

The latter, a Victorian salve compounded by Dr G. L. Roberts, of Brixport in Dorset, was sold in small (4cm by 5cm) pots for 1/12d but is now regarded as too toxic for use as it contained mercury.

Yours faithfully,
G. TEE,
Hannaford House,
Poundsgate, Newton Abbot, Devon.

From Mr Reg White

Sir, I am in no doubt that the generous quantity of Clarke's Blood Mixture, poured down my throat in the early 1930s by a mother who had an almost religious belief in the stuff, has kept me going all these years. It was helped on, of course, by the odd seltzer powder — a saline purgative — and regular doses of Parrish's Food.

Yours faithfully,
REG WHITE,
23 Cambridge Road,
Carshalton, Surrey.

From Mr David G. Felce

Sir, My father (born 1879) swore by an aperient which he called G.P. ("Gentle Perambulator"), originally prescribed by his father who was a doctor (qualified 1851). G.P.s were small sugar-coated spheres and probably consisted of nothing more than phenolphthalein, a standard stimulant laxative. My wife, who is also a doctor, says that her early days were blighted by a liquid paraffin preparation called Nujol.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID G. FELCE,
Fairfield House, Selmeiston,
Polegate, East Sussex.

From Mr Chris Pickard

Sir, No list would be complete without mention of Kruschen Salts ("Enough to cover a supence") and Beecham's Pills ("Worth a guinea a box").

Yours faithfully,
CHRIS PICKARD,
12 Leighton Avenue,
Finner, Middlessex.

From Lady Anne Wake-Walker

Sir, As children in the 1920s and 1930s we were given Syrup of Figs every Friday night and Eno's Fruit Salts the next morning as a "chaser".

Yours sincerely,
ANNE WAKE-WALKER,
East Bergholt Lodge, Suffolk.

NEWS

Major squeezes public spending

John Major, determined to stop public borrowing spiralling out of control, has ordered the toughest scrutiny of public spending for more than a decade.

All departments, including social security which spends £80 billion, will get a rigorous top-to-bottom examination to pinpoint areas where state support may no longer be needed. The results could affect policy-making for decades. Page 1

Children stand guard on horses

Children, some as young as seven, have been slipping from their beds at night to guard their ponies as vigilante groups run night patrols in an attempt to halt the series of sex attacks on horses in the Home Counties. Pages 1, 3

Apology rejected

An apology from the *New Statesman* and *Society* over an article linking John Major with Clare Lattimer, a caterer, has been rejected by the prime minister because it did not go far enough. Page 1

Bosnia move

President Clinton is considering appointing a special envoy to study the Owen-Vance peace plan for Bosnia with a view to possible renegotiation into an acceptable form. Pages 1, 12

Tory deficit

As part of a plan to raise between £40 million and £50 million to pay off a deficit of about £19 million, the Conservative party intends to cut costs, including 42 redundancies by the end of the year. Page 2

Tehran defiance

Iran's ruling mullahs, who have tried to modernise the economy but have refused to countenance a thaw in the social and ideological climate, are facing increasing

defiance and disrespect from ordinary people. Page 10

Cancer gloom

In spite of hundreds of millions of pounds on prevention, treatment and research, breast cancer kills 15,000 women a year with the figure rising. Page 7

Right-to-die probe

A committee of peers is to bear medical, legal and academic evidence in an enquiry into the ethical and legal issues in right-to-die cases. Page 5

Doctors jailed

Two doctors have been jailed for killing a remand prisoner with an overdose of drugs. Dhirendra Saha, 55, was imprisoned for 21 months and Chulim Salim, also 55, got 12 months. Both denied manslaughter and were convicted of reckless or grossly negligent unlawful killing. Page 3

King goes

Lord King stepped down from chairmanship of British Airways and has been succeeded by Sir Colin Marshall. Pages 1, 3

Where tennis is all the family rage

Mary O'Rourke, Ireland's minister for labour, is outraged by the Fitzwilliam lawn tennis club's decision to maintain a ban on women. The club is one of the country's most prestigious; among its members is the former deputy prime minister Brian Lenihan, Mrs O'Rourke's brother. Page 6



Stepping out: the Pope, on the second leg of his African tour, acknowledges Ugandan dancers on his arrival at Entebbe yesterday

BUSINESS

Steel stalled: A £700 million rescue package for the European steel industry looks set to collapse because producers refuse to cut output in line with depressed levels of demand. Page 19

Markets: Sterling strengthened against leading currencies, closing up 77 cents at \$1.4507 and up 40 pence at DM2.3961. Shares gained in early dealings but the FT-SE 100 index was down 3 at 2,862.9 by the close. Page 22

SPORT

Football: Terry Butcher, dismissed by Coventry a year ago, has been appointed player-manager of Sunderland to succeed the sacked Malcolm Crosby. Page 36

Rugby Union: England have never won successive Five Nations matches at Cardiff Arms Park but are expected to test the Welsh revival to the full today. Page 36

RECREATION

Where the cud is greener: Paul Heiney discusses bovine passports with Prudence (or, perhaps more suitably, Cleopatra) the cow, as he slips a surreptitious mangelwurzel into her feed. Page 3

Home entertainment: Private theatrical shows and concerts are still the stuff of parties in some London homes, as Robert Tewdwr Moss discovers. Page 7

Charity begins in the wardrobe: Caitlin Moran and her siblings scour the high-street charity shops for shoestring fashion. Page 11

History under the hammer: A remarkable Chelsea studio house, with its contents intact, is threatened by the demands of inheritance tax. Page 13

Meet and see: Lynne Truss samples the wares of BBC2's *The Mushroom Man* and wonders how the animals in London Zoo can "earn their keep in the marketplace". Page 18

ARTS

Battle of the Titans: Two recordings released this week update the great Beatles-Stones debate of the 1960s, answering the question: who has survived the test of time better — Mick Jagger or Paul McCartney? On the basis of their latest albums, Jagger is easily the winner with an effort that reaffirms his supreme vitality as a performer. Weekend, page 14

Jazz memories: The "no-messing" spirit of Bessie Smith is given a contemporary treatment by Saffire — The Uppity Blues Women, a double act on the American blues circuit who deal in traditional subject matter with a modern sense of humour. Weekend, page 14

Mozart operas on record: John Eliot Gardiner provides a well-mannered but passionless account of *The Abduction of the Seraglio* while *La finta giardiniera* yields glorious, if little-known, music. Weekend, page 14

CULTURE

Simon Jenkins

I don't think a greater humiliation has ever been meted out to an institution than John MacGregor's Commons speech on rail privatisation. This once majestic titan of the iron road is to have a lingering death in the salt mines. Page 14

Alexander Chancellor

There are examples (of political correctness) which are repulsive in their hypocrisy, and one such is the little loop of red ribbon worn as a symbol of solidarity with the victims of AIDS. It has become a mere fashion accessory. Page 14

Mary Killen

An American sociologist concluded that Westerners spend 18 months of their lives in the bath, ten years eating, seven watching television. The only shocking statistic, to me, was that an average person spends two years looking for things. Weekend, page 1

TV LISTINGS

A late change to the schedule brings a live transmission of Verdi's opera, *Stiffelio*, from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. José Carreras sings the title role (Today BBC2, 7.25pm). Page 16

OPINION

Clinton's choice

The Clinton administration may have solid ideas for improving on the Vance-Owen plan for Bosnia. If so, it is time the world, or at very least the members of the UN Security Council, learnt what they are. If not, the hovering in the White House is not just unwise. It is potentially dangerous. Page 15

Cows to the slaughter

The government is in the throes of a quiet revolution, one in which it is not alone. Mr Portillo should start his scrutiny of departmental spending with the premise that nothing is absolutely sacred. Page 15

Charity's funny face

Bathing in custard may not be everyone's idea of the way to save the world. But even those whose taste does not normally run to red plastic adornments should support Comic Relief Day. Page 15

LETTERS

European Community policy is blamed by an MEP for the illegal trade in wine and beer brought in by trippers, and a Scottish Tory peer reminds the government that Rosyth would be the right place for refuelling Trident. Page 15

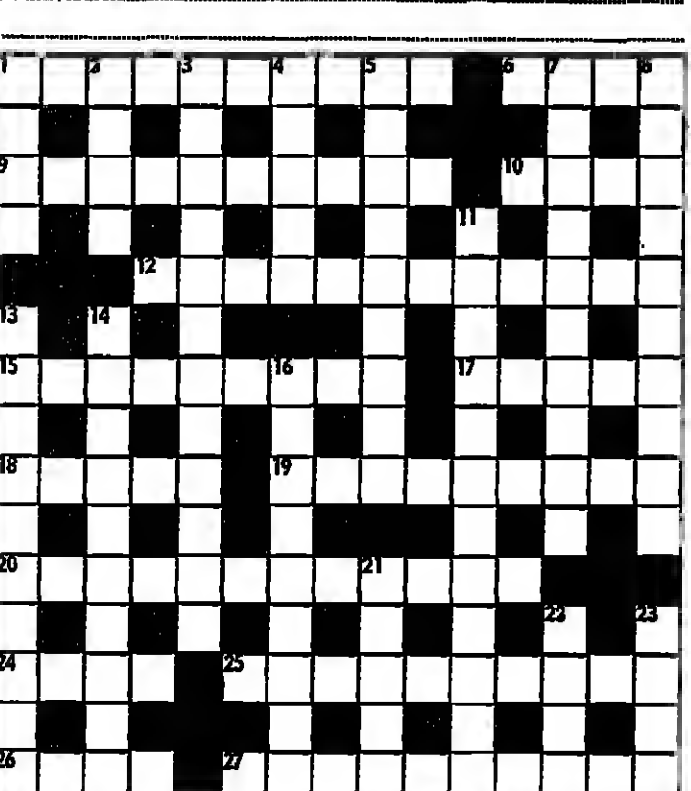
THE PAPERS

Facing a growing demand from the UN, which at the moment deploys 60,000 blue berets in 13 different missions, the member countries dream up military policies which are illogical. Facing more and more serious risks... the defence armaments at the heart of the developed nations are having a great deal of difficulty adapting to the hazy, ambiguous and unstable world crises. *Le Monde*

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,147

PARKER A prize of a superb Parker Duofold International Fountain Pen, with an 18 carat gold nib and fully guaranteed for the lifetime of the original owner will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address:



- ACROSS**
- Child with it? Only half the medicament is appropriate (2,3,5).
 - Deep sea fish (4).
 - Game in which lines aren't altered (4,6).
 - Song with a recurrent melody (4).
 - Round house — ornament on the roof removed (7-5).
 - Keep traitor imprisoned in island indefinitely (9).
 - Put the finger on Tom (5).
 - Old official concerned with woman (5).
 - Something that offends society. (N.B. this can be corrected) (9).
 - Ships mined at sea in trouble (4,8).
 - Gangster and outlaw (4).
 - Con's love of people turns against the existing order (10).
 - Getting into apartment, a key is appropriate (4).
 - Poison two women (10).
- DOWN**
- Go sour (4).
 - Just a drop of drink, night? (4).
 - Impel the beau to go off and grovel (3,6,3).
 - A man of property, one whose name everyone rejects, just using initials (5).
 - No point in islands beginning to stand still (9).
 - When carrying gold, unusual reaction of flight (10).
 - Lads bubble over at first wearing checks (6-4).
 - Secretly removed from that place some wood (3,3,6).
 - Reminder of damage that is below the foreign cardinal's office (7,3).
 - Staff in prison keep following gangster (10).
 - A man involved in sound prevention (9).
 - Gazelle showing spirit (5).
 - Artists used to arm, by the sound of it (4).
 - Cockney game for battle (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,141

CATATONIC CARIB
A E T A R E A S O E
SHEBANG PROSPER
C M E C N W L T
A O E C R E S T O R V A N
N P T I O R O V A N
P E C F I N E R O O A V N
U V G T A E
S N O E L E A T H E R C U R
H P I E O G O
C O N E I R E S E O U I P
N E B O P T Y E
A I L M E N T O R O T U N D
I I R A P L A R A
R O A D T P I E C E M E A I

Solution to Puzzle No 19,146

C A R B O N C L A I M A N T
T E A E A S O E
W O R D W O R T H T U T U
L A M O W A E F
A L B A N O N I N A T U R E
N P T I O R O V A N
P E C F I N E R O O A V N
U V G T A E
S N O E L E A T H E R C U R
H P I E O G O
C O N E I R E S E O U I P
N E B O P T Y E
A I L M E N T O R O T U N D
I I R A P L A R A
R O A D T P I E C E M E A I

TIMES WEATHER

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
Dorset, Wiltshire & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset	705
Berkshire, Bucks, Oxon	706
Beds, Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs	708
West Mid & Sh. Glam & Gwent	709
Shropshire, Hereford & Worcester	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincoln & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
NW England	716
W & S Yorks & Dees	717
NE England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
SW Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin & Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
NW Scotland	725
Caithness, Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weather forecast is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0330 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
C. London (within N & S Circs.)	732
M-ways/roads M1-M4	733
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T	734
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M23	735
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: R C German, Keatwell Long Sutton, Basingstoke, Hampshire; J F Greening, Smitwood Avenue, Cranleigh, Surrey; M Newbery, Carten Estate, Pymly, Looe, Cornwall; E Cardston, Bowerfield Avenue, Hazelgrove, Stockport; S Bruce, Watow Road, Selby, Yorkshire.

WEATHER

There will be outbreaks of rain in north-western Scotland, while the rest of the country will be dry, except for patchy light drizzle over the hills. Northeast Scotland and northeast England will start bright and sunny but cloud will spread south later. Early fog in southern counties will lift, then it should brighten up. Winds will be light to moderate over England and fresh in Scotland. Outlook: Overnight fog in South.

ABROAD

MIDDAY: t=thunder; d=drizzle; lg=log; s=sun; cl=cloud; ss=snow; f=fair; c=cloud; r=rain	C	F
Aleppo	12	54
Alex	15	59
Algiers	17	63
Amman	19	66
Ankara	14	57
Antwerp	15	59
Athens	16	61
Bahia	23	73
Bangkok	30	86
Barcelona	13	55
Bombay	29	84
Buenos Aires	14	57
Calcutta	29	84
Cairo	18	64
Cardiff	13	55
Chennai	29	84
Copenhagen	14	57
Dublin	15	59
Edinburgh	14	57
Geneva	15	59
Hong Kong	22	72
London	15	59
Los Angeles	18	64
Madrid	15	59
Manchester	15	59
Mar del Plata	18	64
Medan	29	84
Melbourne	18	64
Mexico City	18	64
Moscow	14	57
Mumbai	29	84
Nairobi	29	84
Paris	15	59
Rangoon	29	84
Rio de Janeiro	18	64
Sao Paulo	18	64
Seoul	14	57
Shanghai	18	64
Singapore	29	84
Sydney	18	64
Taipei	18	64
Tokyo	18	64
Toronto	18	64
Ulaanbaatar	18	64
Yokohama	18	64

* denotes figures are latest available

LIGHTING-UP TIMES

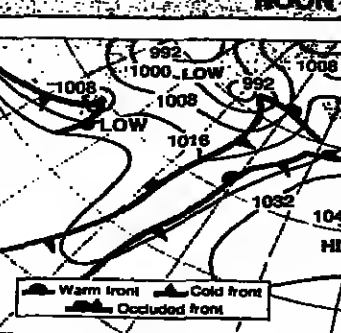
London 5.59 pm to 7.29 am
Bristol 5.59 pm to 7.29 am
Edinburgh 5.57 pm to 7.27 am
Manchester 5.05 pm to 7.44 am
Penzance 5.28 pm to 7.47 am

TOURIST RATES

Australia \$	Bank	Bank
2.225	2.225	2.225
18.40	18.40	18.40
62.50	62.50	62.50
1.78	1.78	1.78
8.75	8.75	8.75
8.09	8.09	8.09
7.88	7.88	7.88
2.336	2.336	2.336
342.00	342.00	342.00
11.98	11.98	11.98
1.056	1.056	1.056
2325.00	2325.00	2325.00
197.75	197.75	197.75
2.88	2.88	2.88
10.71	10.71	10.71
228.00	228.00	228.00
8.40	8.40	8.40
178.75	178.75	178.75
11.28	11.28	11.28
2.235	2.235	2.235
13700.00	13700.00	13700.00
1.54	1.54	1.54

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

NOON TODAY



ARE YOU AFRAID OF WASTING YOUR DOCTOR'S TIME?

Like most people, you probably don't enjoy visiting your doctor. You may feel embarrassed or uncomfortable. Or afraid of making a fuss about nothing. Maybe you don't ask about what's really worrying you. Or you don't understand the answer.

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PROFILE 21

Marshall plan
for the
future of BA



CRICKET 31

Robin Smith
passes a
test of spin



FOOTBALL 35

Why Wright
is right
for England

WEEKEND
SPORTING
FIXTURES
Page 31

THE TIMES

2

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 6 1993

WEEKEND MONEY

BANKING BILL



Katharine Hamilton
was charged £39 by the
Midland Bank when
her account was
overdrawn by £1.09 for
13 days
Page 23

HIGHER HOPES

Nearly 500 investors
could get more
compensation after
being wrongly sold
home income plans
Page 25

FUND ALERT



Investors need to be
able to make a vital
distinction between
income funds and
income growth funds
Page 26

PAYOUT BLOW



Tom Warner was told
that the projected
payout on his ten-year
endowment had fallen
25 per cent in two years
Page 27

CREDIT DUE



Barclaycard should be
given credit for speedily
agreeing to waive
charges for late payment
Letters, page 28

THE POUND

US \$ 1.4507 (+0.0077)
German mark 2.3991 (+0.0040)
Exchange index 77.7 (+0.2)
Bank of England official close
(4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100 2882.9 (-3.0)
Dow Jones 3442.41 (+25.67)
Nikkei Avg. 17332.90 (+142.27)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 6%
3-month interbank 6 1/4-6 1/2
US Federal Funds 2 1/4-2 1/2
3-month Treas Bill 2.92-2.90%
Long Bond 7.18%

CURRENCIES

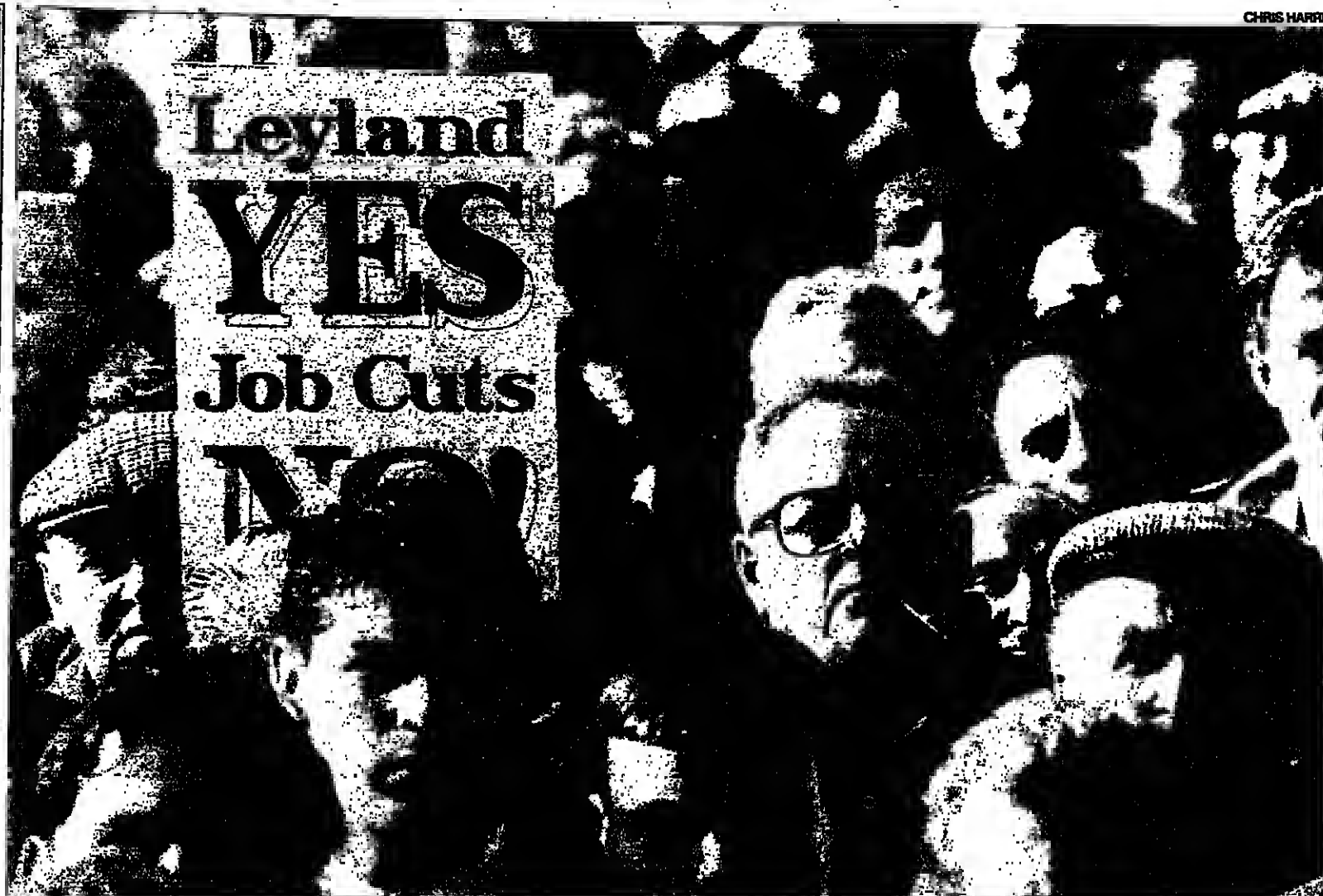
New York: London:
£/\$ 1.4475 £/\$ 1.4485
\$/DM 1.6335 \$/DM 2.3954
\$/Sfr 1.5265 \$/Sfr 2.2028
\$/Yen 5.5950 \$/Yen 8.0785
\$/Yen 124.35 \$/Yen 179.67
\$/ECU 1.0577 \$/ECU 1.2310
London Forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing (5):
AM 327.80 PM 327.75
Close 327.90-328.30
New York:
Comex 328.45-328.95*

RETAIL PRICES

RPI 139.2 December (2.6%)
* Denotes midday trading price



Driven by the desire to work some of the 4,000 Leyland DAF staff, their families and well-wishers who marched through Leyland yesterday

Steelmakers refuse cuts for £700m EC rescue

FROM TOM WALKER
IN BRUSSELS

THE EC's £700 million rescue package for Europe's steel industry has been thrown into confusion by steelmakers' refusal to axe capacity.

Fernand Braun, the EC's special "steel envoy," has returned to Brussels with little but empty promises after two months pleading with more than 60 steel companies, including British Steel, many wholly or partly state owned. They are under pressure not to cut jobs as the recession worsens despite massive and deepening losses. In the absence of a deal, Europe's steel industry will face a battle likely to kill off more and more companies.

Krupp Stahl and Hoesch Stahl, the two leading German steelmakers joining forces in response to the steel price collapse, yesterday announced production cuts of 120,000 tonnes a month. They will also try to raise prices on rolled steel products.

The gloomy outlook for the industry was emphasised yesterday when the OECD forecast that European steel output would decline this year by 2.6 per cent, after a 3.6 per cent fall in 1992.

In his interim report to the commission, made in January, Mr Braun said companies were prepared to cutback on capacity by 8 million tonnes in crude steel and 6 million tonnes in rolled steel. These figures are way out of line with

■ Europe's steel industry is in danger of collapsing unless companies accept the orderly cut in capacity called for in the EC's £700 million restructuring package

those in the restructuring document prepared by Martin Bangemann, the industry commissioner, which estimates overcapacity in the hot rolled sector alone at between 19 and 26 million tonnes.

According to the Commission, demand for EC steel products in 1995 will stagnate at today's levels "even in the event of economic recovery at the end of 1993 or early in 1994." Prices for flat products are now 30 per cent down on their 1989 levels. One official

said that even after a second tour of the major steelmakers, the final Braun report, submitted to the commission last week, was "very far from enough". A Braun aide said of British Steel's stance: "They said they wouldn't make cuts but we'll see." The Commission wants a commitment from the industry to cut least 30 million tonnes capacity.

At British Steel in London any crisis seemed to have been forgotten. The senior echelons of the press office were all in

Hobart, Australia, supervising public relations for the British Steel Challenge yacht race. No comment on Mr Braun's visit was available.

The commission is now in a difficult position. Already this year it has seen the EC lose yet more market share through anti-dumping duties imposed by Washington. Several EC steelmakers are near collapse and need the money earmarked by the Bangemann plan as soon as possible. For the plan to work EC contributions of about £350 million must be matched by member states, but first the industry will have to agree the necessary sacrifices.

Interim strike in Brussels is intensifying over how far protection for the EC industry

should extend. Sir Leon Brittan, external affairs commissioner, is adamant that the commission should keep the high moral ground in its trade war with America and not impose duties on foreign imports, but other commissioners are alarmed at the speed of the decline of the European sector. "There are notes flying around this place like raised fists," said one negotiator.

The money was advanced from the banking consortium according to the size of each bank's exposure to DAF. Three British banks, the National Westminster, Barclays and Lloyds, are owed less than a quarter of the total debts. Central to yesterday's discussions at DAF's headquarters in Eindhoven was the need to confirm that patents on the DAF 45 and DAF 50 ranges of light trucks, the main products of the Lancashire plant, are legally vested in Britain and are not under

Leyland DAF receivers fly to Holland for funding talks

By ROSS TIEMAN AND MARTIN WALLER

THE administrative receiver of Leyland DAF, the British arm of the Anglo-Dutch truck maker, has flown to The Netherlands in an effort to secure short-term funds to restart full-scale production, after Leyland's banks agreed a £7 million temporary lifeline.

Some suppliers to the lorry assembly plant at Leyland, Lancashire, have ceased deliveries while the company's immediate financial future and that of the 5,500-strong workforce are decided this weekend.

The suppliers include the motor components companies GKN and Lucas.

In day-long talks, John Talbot, one of the joint administrators from Arthur Andersen who went in earlier this week when DAF, the parent company, sought protection from creditors, pressed for a package of measures that would allow both the Continental and British operations to continue.

After an earlier injection of 60 million guilders (£22 million), bound for the Continental plants, the latest £7 million from the banks has been earmarked for Britain alone, to allow wages to be paid and components ordered.

The money was advanced from the banking consortium according to the size of each bank's exposure to DAF. Three British banks, the National Westminster, Barclays and Lloyds, are owed less than a quarter of the total debts.

Central to yesterday's discussions at DAF's headquarters in Eindhoven was the need to confirm that patents on the DAF 45 and DAF 50 ranges of light trucks, the main products of the Lancashire plant, are legally vested in Britain and are not under

the control of the Dutch parent, which is increasingly going its own way.

Talks also focused on the need to secure continued access for British plants to DAF's 1,300 dealerships across the Continent, and the continuing supply of engines from The Netherlands that equip half of the British-produced vehicles.

Cummins, which supplies engines at its Darlington plant, in Durham, for up to half the 14,000 trucks produced at Leyland each year, was hoping to hear from the receiver soon.

Only if links between the two companies can be redrawn so that they can operate independently, but in parallel, is there hope of securing a long-term future for the British arm.

Several potential buyers, including Paccar, the American lorry builder, and managers at the Leyland plant, are believed to be interested.

However, prospects are not good for the van plant, which employs 2,000 at Washwood Heath, Birmingham, and for the Albion subsidiary in Glasgow, where 550 workers are involved in the manufacture of axles.

The soaring cost of developing new vehicles and meeting stricter environmental regulations suggests that the British plants need to be part of a world-class vehicle manufacturing group with deep pockets.

Chorley borough council, within whose boundaries Leyland DAF has a parts warehouse employing 450 people, has sent a facsimile to Japan's Mitsubishi Motors Corporation, the world's fourth largest lorry builder, asking it to buy the British company. No reply has been received.

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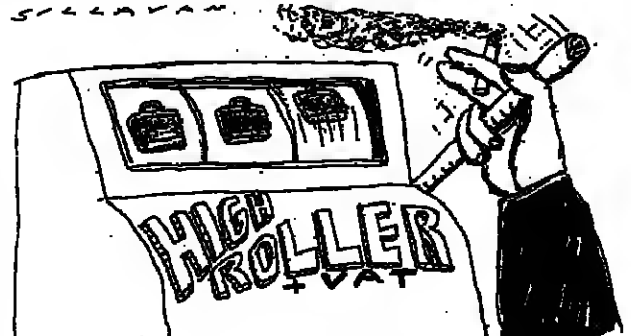
*Calculation by Foreign & Colonial Management Ltd using mid-market prices, net income reinvested at 31.12.92 includes interest 5.5% national average. Current charges are 0.2% commission including 0.5% Government stamp duty (minimum £50). Foreign & Colonial Management Ltd is the PEP Manager, Manager of shares Foreign & Colonial Investment Trusts and a member of MIFID. The value of shares and the income from them can fall as well as rise and investors may not get back the amount invested. Tax benefits may vary as a result of statutory changes and their value will depend on individual circumstances. Past performance is no guide to the future.

Gambling on no Budget surprises

By LINDSAY COOK
MONEY EDITOR

NO CHANGE in personal tax rates in this year's Budget is the odds-on favourite from Budget tipsters. Coopers & Lybrand. The accountancy firm says the most likely result of this unpredictable race is no change in either lower, basic or higher rate tax. However, Peter Wyman, tax partner, says: "If there was a change, I think it would be a reduction to basic rate tax rather than an increase. The Chancellor has twin objectives. The first is to stimulate recovery and the second is to reduce the public sector borrowing requirement. If there was a change, I think it is more likely that Mr Lamont would gamble to reduce direct taxes."

Coopers & Lybrand also predicts that the Chancellor



will announce that American-style self-assessment for personal taxation is on the way. Mr Wyman gives even for the announcement of self-assessment and ten-to-one against the legislation being included in the Budget. He believes details might be in the year's second Budget.

He also gives ten-to-one as the odds against personal

allowances being increased more than the 2.6 per cent inflation rate in December.

Indexing allowances with inflation is another odds-on favourite, while no change in allowances is only five-to-one and increasing them by less than 2.6 per cent is ten-to-one.

Increasing employees' National Insurance rates is ten-to-one against, as is increas-

ing the relief for Lloyd's names or changing the rules for mortgage tax relief.

The tipsters reckon the government may abolish schemes to pay bonuses in gold to avoid paying employers' National Insurance contributions. Hundreds of millions of pounds are lost through such schemes each year. The accountant gives odds of two-to-one on this change. It also offers three-to-one that changes to the taxation of UK branches of overseas life insurance companies are on the way.

An increase in the standard rate of value-added tax is ten-to-one against, while the extension of VAT to new categories, such as children's clothing or newspapers and books, is four-to-one, and VAT concessions for horse racing and breeding three-to-one.

Corporate failures reach a six-year high

■ With the domestic economy still clearly in recession and just one company in five working to full capacity, a high level of insolvencies is expected to continue

By DEREK HARRIS

ALTHOUGH the rate of company insolvencies eased slightly in the last quarter, both corporate and individual failures in 1992 were at a six-year high, according to the British Chambers of Commerce.

Individual failures in the final quarter continued to rise, while corporate insolvencies in England and Wales were 10 per cent down on the third quarter. But the third quarter had produced the worst returns since the recession began, with company failures 20 per cent up.

The fourth quarter's 6,028 company insolvencies were still 7 per cent up on the same quarter of the previous year. In the full year, there were 24,424 company insolvencies, 12 per cent higher than in 1991.

There was a guarded response on whether the slow-down in company failures signalled the economic tide turning. Richard Brown, the BCC director of policy, said: "It would be wrong to take any satisfaction from these latest figures and it is certainly premature to announce that the recession is over, based on one quarter's fall."

But he added that some comfort could be taken from the rate of company collapses slowing.

It was a bleak last-quarter picture for individual insolvencies, which numbered 9,795, seasonally adjusted, 4 per cent up on the previous quarter and 25 per cent higher than in the fourth quarter of 1991. In 1992 as a whole, there were 36,794 individual insolvencies, 44 per cent up on the previous year.

Mr Brown said that the tide might well be turning but that the most obvious question was

whether the improvement would develop into a trend. He gave a warning that with the domestic economy clearly still in recession, high levels of corporate failures could be expected for some time.

He added: "We are still seeing one in 38 companies becoming insolvent at a time when only one in five companies is working to full capacity."

There were other warnings of a higher rate of business collapses this year. The Association of British Factors and Discounters said the surge in failures had increased the bad debt burden for smaller companies and that pointed to more being driven to the wall this year.

The association, whose members provide cash for smaller companies against invoices, is forecasting a 15 per cent rise to more than 70,000 in the number of business failures, including receiverships. Last year, there was a 30 per cent rise to 62,000.

Alan Hughes, the association chairman, said: "Bad debts are only the tip of the iceberg for small businesses. When the late payment problem is taken into account, their struggle to survive the recession becomes truly daunting."

"Even if the economy turns the corner this year, banks will still be cautious about lending to smaller firms and the corporate death toll will continue to climb."

Robin Cook, shadow trade secretary, said: "Until John Major and his colleagues re-join the real world and start to take notice of the cries for help from sinking businesses, many more thousands will undoubtedly be joining them."



Cutting losses: Henry Roberts, chief executive of Northumbrian, has sold Lees, the loss-making subsidiary

Food group sells Lees to cut debt

NORTHUMBRIAN Fine Foods, of which Henry Roberts is chief executive, has sold Lees of Scotland, the confectionery subsidiary that was largely to blame for a group loss and passed dividend in the six months to end-September (Philip Pangalos writes).

The unit was bought by Northumbrian in 1991 for £4.6 million. It has been sold to Claymore Group for £1.15 million, with about £3 million of bank debt also off-loaded, reducing group debt to about £4.2 million.

Lees, contributed £667,800 to a group pre-tax loss of £1.06 million (£252,800 profit), which included an exceptional charge of £215,000. Group turnover is £11.1 million (£4.89 million).

There is a loss of 2.96p (0.70p earnings) a share. There is no interim dividend (0.75p), and no final. Northumbrian shares lost 2p to 15p on resumption of trading.

BT unveils terms for 15,000 job cuts

By PATRICIA TEHAN

BT HAS unveiled the second stage of one of British industry's biggest ever redundancy programmes, which will see the company shed 15,000 staff in the coming financial year through Release 93.

Although the Release 93 scheme lacks the generosity of Release 92, under which 30,000 staff will have taken voluntary redundancy by the end of March, the same basic terms for redundancy compensation and pensions will apply.

Release 92 is estimated to have cost the company £1 billion.

The second scheme comes into operation on April 1 and will continue in the following financial year, when BT hopes to lose another 15,000 staff. The company revealed in November that it would be cutting another 30,000 staff over the next two years.

The main difference in the coming year's scheme is the absence of an early leaver payment, which last year paid a 25 per cent of salary bonus to those who left by the end of July. Staff will also be expected to work out their notice period. Release 93 will offer an incentive payment of 8 per cent of pensionable pay for people who leave within a specified time of receiving their redundancy estimate. BT said it cannot ensure that the same payment will also be available in 1994.

Release 92 was so generous, with average payouts of between £30,000 and £40,000, that the scheme, which aimed to cut its workforce by 20,400, received 62,500 redundancy applications. BT accepted 30,000.

After natural wastage and company self-offs, total staff is likely to be reduced by 38,000 by the end of March, taking staffing levels down to about 130,000, compared with 247,000 in 1990.

A spokeswoman for the National Communications Union said the union has received details of the scheme and is attempting to persuade BT to justify its claims that 15,000 staff need to go in the next year.

It is also seeking assurances from the company that redundant staff will not be replaced with contractors.

Liberty Life fined £80,000

By LINDSAY COOK
MONEY EDITOR

LIBERTY Life Assurance has been fined £80,000 by the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation for failing to "organise and control its internal affairs in a responsible manner", and for failing to ensure that its staff and tied agents were suitable and properly supervised.

Liberty Life has also compensated investors who have suffered loss as a result of the failures and has agreed to compensate other investors with similar claims.

The fine follows inspection visits in February and March 1991, which identified problems with the company's compliance procedures, and another, in April 1992, which showed it had not dealt adequately with the problems.

Laurio was concerned that Liberty Life was not screening its representatives satisfactorily. The company suspended its recruitment for three months last summer and has reviewed its current appointments.

The company was found to fail to comply with principle 9 of the Securities and Investments Board's statements of principle. Laurio acknowledged that Liberty Life had co-operated fully and had taken effective steps to strengthen compliance procedures.

Comment, page 23

OFT considers longer look at Airtours bid

THE Office of Fair Trading may deliberate for several more weeks over the £208 million bid from Airtours for Owners Abroad, the rival travel operator, before deciding whether to refer the offer to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Airtours received a predictably low number of acceptances of the offer at the first closing date, with 0.37 per cent of Owners ordinary shares accepting the terms.

It is believed the interest the bid has aroused in the travel industry — and the submissions by the Consumers' Association, independent travel agents and other interested bodies that the deal should not be allowed — mean the matter will have to be considered by a full OFT merger panel. This would extend the time taken in reaching a decision, possibly until beyond day 39 of the bid, February 22. The Takeover Panel would then have to decide whether to suspend the timetable until a decision was declared. Airtours shares were 3p lower at 281p yesterday. Owners dropped 1p to 115p.

Clifford shares surge

SHARES in Clifford Foods surged 85p to 505p after the dairy products, fruit juices and chilled foods group said it had received a possible takeover approach. Food analysts said bid favourites included Unigate, which failed in a hostile attempt to take over the company in 1980, Northern Foods, Avonmore Foods, Dairy Crest and MD Foods. Any deal would have to be agreed. Clifford profits in the six months to end-June slumped 60 per cent to £1.03 million.

Tesco takeover cleared

THE European Commission has cleared Tesco's takeover of Cateau, the family-owned French retailer. The acquisition was approved because Tesco and Cateau's markets do not overlap and there was no danger of creating or strengthening a dominant position in the French or British markets, the commission ruled. Both companies are subject to strong competition from rival retailers, it added. Tesco will buy control of Cateau through a share purchase.

Domino stake halved

A BIG shareholder in Domino Printing Sciences, the ink jet printing systems company, has more than halved its stake by selling 3 million shares. Falkner Moller Partners, the Cambridge investment house, cut its holding to 2,478,125 shares (9.7 per cent). The shares sold went to a spread of institutional investors. Gerald Dennis, right, Domino chairman, said: "The board welcomes the opportunity which this sale presents to widen its shareholder base. We are pleased that Neil Falkner (FMP chairman) will remain on Domino's board."



Barcom buys Hawkins

BARCOM, the plant-hire company formerly known as Venture Plant, has conditionally agreed to acquire Hawkins Group, one of the largest privately-owned hirers of plant for the contracting and construction industry, for a nominal £1 and assumption of Hawkins' £5.8 million debts. The company incurred £529,000 pre-tax losses in the ten months to end-October. The Barcom board has negotiated £2 million debt forgiveness with Hawkins' creditors.

Birse dives into red

CONTRACTING industry turmoil and higher interest charges sent Birse Group, the building and construction company, into a £2.71 million loss (£1.81 million profit) before tax in the six months to end-October. The interim is passed (1.65p). Peter Birse, the chairman, said the company had agreed with its banks to put borrowings on a committed three-year basis. Birse made a £429,000 operating loss, against profits of £3.25 million before exceptional.

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NET %	3.48%	3.66%	4.31%	4.31%

Full terms and conditions are available on request. CAR% - applied rate for interest payable when income tax does not require to be deducted. NET - applied rate of interest payable after allowing for the deduction of income tax at the basic rate. Non-savings may reclaim income tax deducted. CAR% compounded. Annual Rate - this is the Gross or Net rate adjusted to take account of interest applied during the year remaining in the account and will earn interest Rates subject to variation but correct at time of going to press.

*Excludes include for example cheques, ATM withdrawals, Switch, standing orders, direct debits and inter-account transfers. When in excess of the free number allowed will be £1 per item. Standing orders and direct debits will be subject to an operating charge of 10p and 10p respectively, whether or not they are included within the free debits allowed. *% balances of £250,000 and above.

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Colleagues expected Ward fee to be 'millions'

THOMAS Ward told colleagues at his American law firm that he expected a "very substantial" fee as a result of his work for Guinness, an Old Bailey jury heard yesterday (Jon Astworth writes).

Michael Grow, former managing partner of Ward Lazarus, Grow & Cihlar, a Washington law firm, told the court that he had understood Mr Ward would receive a sizable fee for his work during the bid for Distillers in 1986. He said: "I assumed that for a matter of this size it would be a figure in the millions."

Mr Ward, 53, denies stealing £5.2 million from Guinness. He claims the money was a success fee.

The court heard that it was not uncommon for Ward Lazarus partners to keep personal payments arising from their work.

The trial was adjourned until Monday.

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BUSINESS PROFILE: The new top team at BA

Moving effortlessly into the captain's seat

BA's new chairman is very different from Lord King but, as Harvey Elliott reports, its problems have not changed

Within an hour of taking over as chairman of British Airways, Sir Colin Marshall had moved into the high-backed chair at the top of the mahogany boardroom table in BA's central London headquarters, sent out for sandwiches, and begun making plans to deal with his most pressing problem — staff morale.

"There is no doubt that our people have felt the blow from the Virgin libel case and we have to move as strongly and as quickly as we can to recover the situation," Sir Colin said, after chairing his first board meeting. "I think and hope that now the succession is clarified and we really get down to it and make sure morale is recovered, our employees can continue to do the excellent job they have been doing for the past few years. They're now in reasonable shape and I believe they will get over it pretty quickly."

Until the first rumours of "dirty tricks" against Richard Branson's Virgin Atlantic emerged, BA's 50,000 staff had been the most self-confident in the industry — and it showed. Gradually, however, they began wondering if there was not, after all, something in the allegations and, if so, who would carry the can.

When Mr Branson's libel action ended in a humiliating apology, they turned furiously on the directors who had for so long convinced them that the company was being run in a clean, if aggressively competitive, manner. Suddenly, the pressures, caused by the constant calls for cost cutting, reductions in overtime, redundancies and pay cuts and by the jibes they found themselves receiving, boiled over into an almost universal

feeling of self-doubt, uncertainty, anger and distrust.

As the archetypal service industry, airlines rely heavily on their staff. It was a lesson that Sir Colin, now 59, first learned in 1958, when he was a young steward on a cruise liner; it was reinforced during years at Hertz and Avis and culminated in his sending every BA staff member on "putting people first" courses to learn how to respond to the demands of the travelling public.

Now he and Robert Ayling, the newly appointed managing director, will have to start all over again.

Sir Colin — a far less flamboyant character than his predecessor — has achieved his success largely by example. He was always in his corner office on the fourth floor of Speedbird House, at Heathrow, by 7 am. Half an hour later, he had digested the operational details of the airline's services throughout the world from the computer screens on his desk and was calling executives, whom he

'There is no doubt our people have felt the blow from the Virgin case, we have to move strongly to recover'

automatically assumed would be at their desks, to ensure they were on top of any problems.

Although he is now chairman, he has retained direct responsibility for finance, corporate strategy, safety, security, environment, communications, government and industry affairs, public relations and the medical, legal and company secretary departments. It gives him far more day-to-day control than some critics and City institutions would, perhaps, have liked; although, by giving Sir Michael Angus, deputy chairman, a watchdog responsibility to ensure executives are fully accountable for all their actions, it is hoped that his new areas of responsibility will be



Hands on: as chairman, Sir Colin Marshall has chosen to retain direct responsibility for a wide range of BA's operations

well within the Cadbury code of best practice.

"We have effectively split the role," he said. "As chairman, I am senior officer of the company and that is what we had intended since last July, when it was announced that Lord King would be stepping down. The responsibilities were always going to be divided in this way but when the Cadbury report came along our board paid a lot of attention to it and that has been recognised in the stronger role given to the deputy chairman. Bob Ayling is going to have the responsibility for the functions of the big battalions in the airline, which

means the short to medium-term performance. He will report to me, but I have the responsibility for finance and the longer term."

The elevation to chairman will not mean that Sir Colin becomes less of a "hands on" chief. "I was in my office at 6.35 am today and I don't anticipate changing my ways," he said. "I have always been an early riser."

Now that he has taken on the responsibility for the long-term strategy of the airline, Sir Colin faces some pressing problems both at home and overseas. One of his first jobs will be to appoint a new member to the board. A strong

believer in equal opportunities for women, Sir Colin is likely to seek the services of an internationally respected woman. He insists existing board members will remain, although it would hardly be a surprise if younger blood was brought in to replace some of the older "Lord King appointees" such as Lord White and Frank Kennedy.

Other, more fundamental problems are also crowding in. The airline industry is now losing money faster than ever and BA's success in raking up profits year after year against the general trend

cannot be guaranteed without further cost cutting. Partnerships with USAir, Qantas, TAT, Air Russia and Deutsche BA must now be made to work and to produce much needed additional revenue.

Mr Branson's attempts to obtain more slots at Heathrow are a function of insufficient capacity at London's premier airport. Forcing the government to face up to this problem and change the way the airport operates so more flight movements are possible, is not going to be easy.

Despite the Treaty of Rome, Europe's state-owned carriers continue to be subsidised by their

governments. Britain's privately owned airlines have to fight without any such safety net and persuading Euro-politicians to crack down on the practice will take monumental diplomatic skills.

So too will getting the message through to financially hard-pressed nations that millions of pounds are being lost — and therefore added to passengers' fares — in burning extra fuel due to the inadequacies of Europe's air traffic control system.

Sir Colin's character is completely different from that of Lord King, however, and he will tackle these problems with hard, cold logic rather than the previous chairman's sometimes inspired, often angry, spontaneity. He rarely loses his temper but the recent suggestion that he was in line for the top job at American Express caused an explosion of rage. He was equally angry about repeated suggestions that he and Lord King had fallen out over the failure of the proposed deal with United Airlines. "It is all completely untrue," he said. "It is so frustrating and amazing that this rumour lingers on. We have had an outstanding relationship and worked together in a partnership which is enduring, lasting and successful."

His early days in the North of England have left Sir Colin with an abiding interest in rugby league, especially Wigan, while his move to London made him a staunch follower of Arsenal football club.

Given a rare few days off, he is happy skiing with his wife and daughter, and he regularly plays tennis and squash at a club near his Knightsbridge home. He abhors smoking and rarely drinks, preferring to keep a constant check on everything that happens in the company without losing concentration for a split second. "He is the kind of man who would notice a sparrow fall," one colleague said.

His robotic fitness, which enables him to fly around the world without the slightest sign of jet-lag and cope with a workaholic schedule that takes him to functions almost every night of the week, is going to be called on as never before if BA is really to put the trauma of the last few, earthquake months behind it.

Rapid rise of the man from the ministry

ROBERT Ayling, 46, the new managing director, has been tipped for a top job at British Airways ever since the surprise departure to Sears of Liam Strong, the previous marketing director, in September 1991 (George Sivell writes).

Under the previously announced plans for Lord King to retire next July, it was envisaged that Mr Ayling would become chief executive. However, his role as managing director will not be that different from his existing job as director of marketing and operations. Yesterday, BA said his task would embrace "maximising British Airways short-to-medium term profitability" and that he would be responsible for running the greater part of the business day-to-day. He will be responsible for marketing, sales, regional management, operations, flight crew, engineering, human resources and information management.

A prominent role in running BA is fitting for the man



High flyer: Robert Ayling worked on BA privatisation

who was responsible for drafting the bill that paved the way for the eventual privatisation of the airline. Mr Ayling went to King's College School, Wimbledon, and is married with three children. In 1968, he joined Elbome, Mitchell & Co, the specialist aviation, shipping and insurance law firm and became the firm's youngest ever equity partner at the age of 24.

In 1973, he joined the trade department as a legal adviser on British accession to the European Economic Community. Two years later, he was seconded to British Shipbuilders, with responsibility

for negotiating contracts for orders. He was promoted in 1978 to become head of trade department's aviation law branch.

In this position he was responsible for the parliamentary bill that paved the way for the British Airways privatisation. In 1981, after the transfer of the aviation portfolio to the transport department, he was promoted to under-secretary at the trade department, concentrating on European Community, international trade and competition issues. He was recruited by British Airways in 1985, to be responsible for the airline's legal and government affairs.

In 1987, he was appointed company secretary. He led the legal work on the airline's privatisation, which took place in February 1987, and the acquisition of British Caledonian a year later. He was involved in all British Airways' corporate restructuring and was appointed director of human resources in July 1988.

Japanese surplus soars 60%

FROM REUTERS IN TOKYO

JAPAN'S gaping current account surplus jumped more than 60 per cent to a record \$117.62 billion in calendar 1992, a rise certain to aggravate increasing disputes with US and European trade partners.

The 1992 surplus in goods and services — beat not only the \$72.90 billion surplus in 1991, but also the previous record of \$87.02 billion set in 1987. The trade component of the nation's balance of payments rose to a record \$132.60 billion surplus from the previous high surplus of \$103.04 billion in 1991, the ministry said.

"This sets the stage for dramatic trade confrontation," said Paul Summerville, chief economist at Jardine Fleming Securities.

Japan is under pressure from Washington and Brussels to trim its surpluses, but a sluggish economy is dampening imports, while a strong yen exaggerates the size of exports.

Japanese exports rose to \$330.80 billion (\$306.56 billion), while imports slipped to \$198.20 billion (\$203.57 billion). Officials and economists agree the surpluses are unlikely to shrink dramatically in the future.

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Unwanted counter-attractions



LINDSAY COOK
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

Bank customers who have been besieged with offers of bonds, insurance and loans recently may be pondering whether the confidentiality of their bank accounts has been breached.

It is almost a year since the banking code of practice came into operation, appearing to guarantee that customers' personal financial details would not be given to any financial salesperson in an associated company of the bank.

There has been no let up in the marketing onslaught as far as customers are concerned. Some may have unwittingly given permission for the sales pitch by failing to notice an asterisk and a statement in small print stating that information may be passed to subsidiaries.

The information can keep on flowing to market research organisations and credit reference agencies, even after the account is closed, according to one application form. The salesmen could be contacting forever.

When the code came in, several banks rather cynically said they

would not have to change the way they operated much. Instead of the insurance subsidiary being sent a list of people with £10,000 or more on deposit, the branch would be sent letters by the insurance company to mail to those customers with large sums. The result is the same for the customer, especially if the mailing about investments arrives only days after a large sum is deposited.

A few have specifically asked their customers' permission to share information, while others have been a little devious when getting "express consent" to pass on information. They have sent customers letters with a tear-off coupon for a prize draw. Those who read them carefully will have noticed that by entering the competition they were agreeing to their details being spread about the group.

The banks have the whip hand when people are applying for loans.

Those who actually fill in the forms themselves do not usually want to score out statements that give the bank the right to hold and process any information about the customer by any company in the group.

Customers can always write to the bank and ask for a stop to mailings and telephone calls, but surely the onus should be on the banks not to pester customers without express permission. Many will want to know about every new investment.

Others would rather not receive a telephone call from a stranger who seems to know more than he ought

to about their personal circumstances. The code is to be reviewed regularly. It would seem that a check should be made sooner rather than later as the dash to get disenchanted savers into equities gathers speed.

Hard sell

The timing of the insurance industry is pretty hot. As another company is fined heavily for bad selling practices, the Association of British Insurers has started an internal campaign to make us love them. Companies are

being asked to put more positive remarks about the industry in annual reports and in advertisements, to tell MPs how wonderful insurance companies are and to tell the media about the effectiveness of regulation and just how many people are pleased they took out a policy.

The association admits that the criticisms of certain activities in the field of life insurance are valid, but fears they are in danger of alienating potential customers. It will not be including in its briefing notes the high early surrender figures and the low payouts these customers get.

Nor will insurers remind customers and opinion-formers that large numbers of firms are failing the inspections of their regulator.

The time and money might be better spent in improving standards and redesigning products so that they actually do what customers want. Too often, salesmen sell the

wrong product and when they are found out say they had no choice because their company did not have what the customer wanted.

The industry likes to sell 25-year policies to young people, middle-aged people and even old people. Such long-term investment is a good deal if the policy reaches maturity. The vast majority do not with most companies. This is often because policies with flexible names are anything but.

If the industry was inventing the endowment today it would not be able to get past the regulators the idea that most of the first year's investment should go to the salesman and the customer should not be told.

Too many household name companies have flouted the regulations and seemed to pay scant attention to the needs of the customers. Market share has been the watchword, not service, value for money or even security. The industry needs to mend its ways before it can win universal respect, trying to divert attention from what is wrong will not work.

Banks edge towards restoring charges for personal customers

BY LINDSAY COOK
MONEY EDITOR

THE first move towards the high street banks charging current account customers whose accounts are in credit came this week when Save & Prosper announced that anyone with less than £1,000 in their accounts would have to pay £5 a month.

While Coutts, the Queen's bank, has always charged less prosperous customers for the privilege of banking, the high street banks have offered free banking since the mid-1980s and only clobbered those who went into the red.

For the last year or so, they have been reviewing the cost of current accounts and all have long-term plans to re-introduce charges on cheque accounts in credit when they feel they can get away with it.

Bardays estimates that a cheque account needs to have an average balance of £600 to pay its way and that the average cost per year for running an account is £40 to £45. With fewer than half the current account customers incurring charges, the costs for the whole customer base has to be borne by those who overdraw occasionally.

When the overdraft is particularly brief, or not even visible to the customer on the bank statement, because it was caused by the time it took a cheque paid in to be cleared, the annual percentage rate charged can run into thousands of per cent if the quarterly or monthly charges are included. The actual interest may be less than a pound.

Lloyds Bank, which was the first to introduce an annual charge on its credit cards, said it would not introduce charges for customers in credit until it believed it had improved its service and that customers had recognised the improvement.

Since January 10, it has charged those who overdraw by more than £100 in its Classic Account £8 a month. Those who go over this limit in the current account pay 60p for every cheque, direct debit, cash dispenser withdrawal, use of a debit card, standing order and even for every payment in.

Those who are seriously overdrawn and have payments refused are charged £25 a time. Lenders and telephone calls to advise a customer of an unauthorised overdraft cost £10 and a statement is £5.



Banking bill: Katharine Hamilton, a disgruntled Midland customer, with her children, Naomi, left, and Rachel

National Westminster Bank has been reviewing the tripwire nature of the charges.

A senior executive describes it as customers being lulled into a false sense of security until one day when they go a little overdrawn and are hit by very large charges for the amount they are in the red.

NatWest charges £36 a quarter for unarranged borrowing of £50 or more and interest of 32.9 per cent. For arranged overdrafts the fee is £19 a quarter on the current account and £23 a quarter on the Current Plus Account.

Bounced payments cost £27.50 and letters cost £24. In addition to the £39 or £15 quarterly fee for Midland customers who overdraw, the bank charges £20 a time for bounced cheques, £15 for cheque guarantee card abuse, and £12 for a letter telling a customer they have become overdrawn without permission.

Bardays charges monthly fees from £5 to £25 for overdrafts. The lower fee is for an arranged overdraft on an account not paying interest and the highest is for unauthorised or excessive overdrafts over £200.

Agreed overdrafts cost 21.3 per cent and others are

charged at 35.7 per cent. Bounced cheques and debits cost £20. Usually, there is no warning and the amount has been taken from the account by the bank before the customer is told. This has long been a grievance with customers who do not like their accounts being plundered.

The banking code of practice, which came into operation last year, stated that no one should be charged in two quarters because unexpected charges pushed them into the red for a second quarter.

At the time, the banks said it was not possible to notify customers in advance of charges. Since then, TSB has started sending details of charges two weeks before they are deducted from an account.

National Westminster has announced it is going to do so as well.

Bardays has introduced the service for small business customers and, like Lloyds and Midland, is thinking about it for personal customers.

Free banking was introduced in late 1984 by Midland Bank for all current account customers who did not overdraw. The bank won hundreds of thousands of accounts from the other high street banks in the year that it

alone among the Big Four was offering this. The others fell into line and the proportion of customers paying for their banking has fallen ever since.

In 1988, Nationwide Building Society launched the FlexAccount, which was the first current account to pay interest on an ordinary cheque account.

This was followed by Abbey National and then the high street banks, although the level of interest paid on current account balances is a fraction of what it was when the accounts were launched.

On Wednesday, Abbey National will cut the cost of its overdrafts from 24.4 per cent to 22.4 per cent. Unlike the traditional banks, Abbey does not charge an overdraft fee. Customers pay interest for the days they are overdrawn. If this is without permission, the cost is 34.4 per cent.

Save & Prosper is increasing the rate of interest that will be paid on sums under £1,000 in its Classic Account from 1.01 per cent gross (0.75 per cent net) to 2.53 per cent gross (1.88 per cent net).

The £5 charge will be levied on the last business day of the month on accounts that have fallen below £1,000.

The company will also charge customers with its Premier Account £5 a month when their credit balances fall below £2,500. It has also stopped paying interest on sums in its Premier Account and deposit account under this threshold.

Millions losing out on earning interest

BY SARA MCCONNELL

MILLIONS of bank customers are still not taking advantage of interest-bearing current accounts more than five years after they were introduced. The four largest high street banks estimate that, at best, only half their current account customers have an interest-earning one.

Rates paid on many interest-bearing current accounts have fallen heavily, but customers whose salaries are paid in regularly and who maintain a respectable credit balance should still take advantage. Those who overdraw frequently, however, will pay higher penalties for such action on an interest-bearing account than on one that pays no interest.

Lloyds and Midland banks estimate that roughly half their customers now earn interest on their current balances. Both offer their interest-bearing accounts as standard to new customers. Lloyds introduced its Classic Account four years ago this month. Now it has cut rates on balances of over £1,000 after last week's base rate cut. The account pays 0.5 per cent gross, 0.38 per cent net on balances of between £1,000 and £5,000 and 1 per cent gross, 0.75 per cent net on balances of more than £5,000. Balances of below £1,000 still earn 0.2 per cent gross, 0.15



Bayliss: launched competing account

per cent net. When the Classic Account was launched, it was paying 6.5 per cent net on balances of above £500 and 4.5 per cent net on balances below £500.

Midland's Orchard Account, launched the month after the Lloyds scheme, is now offered as standard. It pays 0.5 per cent gross, 0.38 per cent net on all balances. Only 1.3 million of NatWest's 6 million customers have a Current Plus interest-bearing current account. In March 1989,

when the account was launched, it was paying 6 per cent net of composite rate tax. Now it is paying 0.5 per cent gross, 0.38 per cent net on all balances. The bank does not offer the Current Plus account as standard.

At Bardays, customers have to ask if they want the interest option, which pays 0.5 per cent gross, 0.38 per cent net. Nationwide is still paying better rates on FlexAccount balances than its banking competitors. It was the first to offer a current account paying interest, in May 1987. Then it paid 2 per cent net of composite rate tax on balances of up to £100. The top rate, on balances of over £500, was 5 per cent net of CRT. Now it pays 1.2 million FlexAccount customers 1 per cent gross, 0.75 per cent net on the smallest balances of up to £2,000.

Those with balances of more than £25,000 earn 5.2 per cent gross, 3.9 per cent net. However, since July, new customers have had to keep a minimum of £500 in the account or have at least £500 credited monthly.

John Bayliss, then Abbey's managing director of retail operations, led the assault on the Nationwide in 1988, with a competing current account, Abbey is now paying 0.5 per cent gross, 0.38 per cent net, on all balances.

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Savers urged
to be wary on
income funds

BY RUPERT BRUCE

INVESTORS who have watched their income from bank or building society deposits plummet and are now looking to the stock market for higher yields should be aware of a vital distinction between the two types of income fund, according to analysts and fund managers.

Tony Nutt, a director of Fleming Investment Trust Management, said "I think there is a movement at the moment for people simply to look at the yield in order to replace their building society income that has halved. I would advise people to be cautious and not simply look at the yield." He draws a distinction between high income funds and income growth funds.

While the former provide a high income, it is unlikely to

grow significantly and any capital growth in the underlying investment is likely to be relatively sluggish. On the other hand, income growth funds start with a relatively low income, but that and the capital should grow over time.

Whether an investor opts for a high income or an income growth fund should depend on their income requirements.

Robbie Robertson, an investment trust analyst at NatWest Securities, said "If you are dependent on income to keep on chugging along and you are not concerned about the capital and might even buy an annuity then the choice of high income is pretty simple."

"But if you are thinking longer term, and you think interest rates are going to stay at these levels, then history

suggests you should buy income growth". According to the Association of Investment Trust Companies, a high income fund is one with a yield of more than 125 per cent of the FT-A all-share index, the broadest average of stock market performance.

On the other hand, an income growth fund is one that aims to "accrue" income growth. That implies that, with the FT-A all-share yielding 4.3 per cent, a high income fund yields more than 5.4 per cent, and an income growth fund rather less. In practice, however, the distinction is often less clear, and investors should refer to a unit or investment trust's promotional literature to discover whether it has an income growth or high income policy.

At the moment, sales of all types of income funds are buoyant. The latest Unit Trust Association figures show that sales of unit trusts soared in December. The industry notched up gross sales of £1.04 billion compared with £976.4 million in November, and £52.9 million in December, 1991. The biggest selling area, by far, was UK Equity Income funds.

With instant-access building society deposit accounts now yielding only about 4.5 per cent gross (depending on the sum deposited), the yields of all types of income funds have become increasingly competitive — particularly because many can be sheltered from tax by a personal equity plan.

When seeking to emphasise the advantages of income unit trusts over building society higher-rate accounts, the association has taken the example of £1,000 invested in 1983.

In the first year, the deposit account yielded an income of £75 and the unit trust a comparatively meagre £59. But by 1993, the unit trust

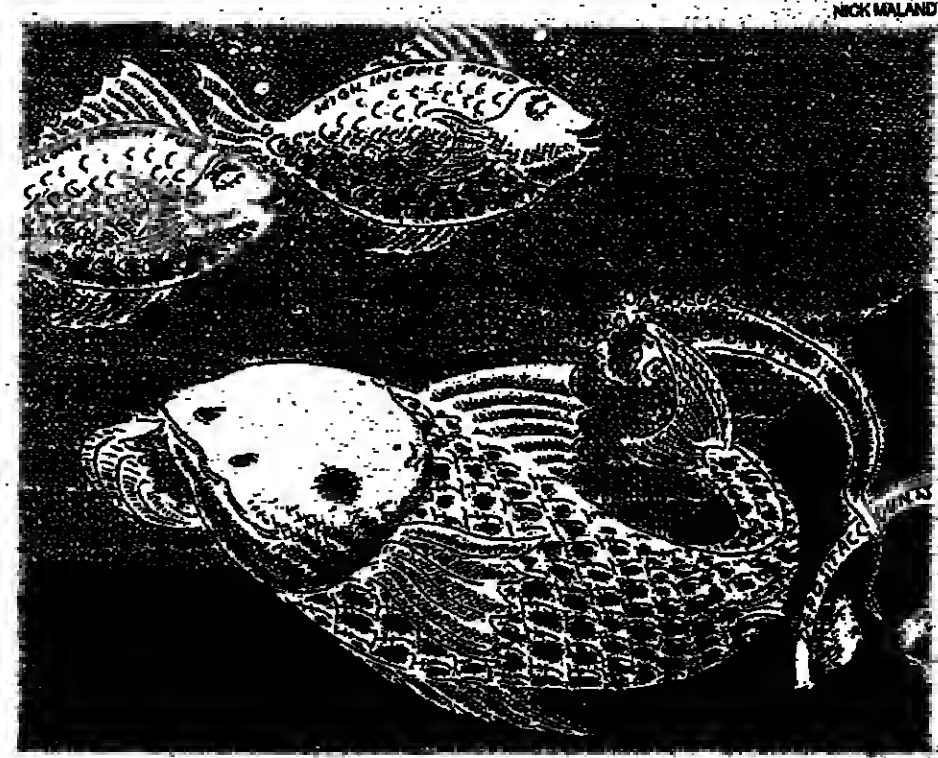
investment's payout would have grown to £151, while the deposit account would have yielded just £54.

Behind the growth in the unit trust's payout is capital growth. Today, the capital invested in the unit would be worth £217. And, although the income yield generally remains below that of the building society, it is calculated on a growing capital sum.

But, while this vividly illustrates the argument for income growth funds, it is not appropriate for high-income funds. Witness a comparison between two investment trusts.

Over five years to the end of last December, Shires Investment, a high income fund with a 9.9 per cent gross yield, would have turned £100 into £149.10 if the income had been reinvested, according to AITC figures. The Dunedin Income Growth trust, which has a 5.6 per cent gross yield and is described by its manager as aiming for growth of income, would have turned a similar sum into £165.09.

Andrew Burdick, manager of the Gartmore UK Equity Income Fund, explained: "The higher the income requirement, the higher the need to invest in fixed interest securities, like convertibles and preferences, and also perhaps invest in higher yielding equities. The latter tend to be companies that are hitting harder times, or else they tend to be companies that are valued on a dividend basis with little growth expected in terms of earnings."

Society
bond is
'exciting
but safe'

BY LIZ DOLAN

ALLIANCE & Leicester is the latest building society to try to minimise the plight of disillusioned savers by offering a savings bond where performance is directly linked to that of the stock market. The rapid fall in building society saving rates over the past four months has already prompted the society to predict that its savings accounts this year are unlikely to exceed outgoings.

Jeffrey Sutherland-Kay, marketing manager, said more people were now prepared to "take a bit of a gamble" with their money. The new bond provided the means to make that gamble "exciting but safe", he said. This was achieved by guaranteeing a minimum payout after five years of 115 per cent of the initial investment, net of tax. Any extra gains are dependent on the performance of the FT-SE 100 index.

The minimum investment in the bond is £1,000 and the maximum £500,000. After five years, the original capital investment is repaid, plus interest representing either 75 per cent of the rise in the FT-SE index, net of tax, or 15 per cent of the initial investment, whichever is greater. Over the past five years, to the start of January 1993, the FT-SE 100 grew by 66 per cent, although past performance does not guarantee future success.

Early withdrawals are possible at quarterly intervals after two years, but returns are commensurately lower. People withdrawing in the third year get their capital back plus 52.5 per cent of any FT-SE rise. In the fourth year, they get 103.75 per cent of their original investment, or 100 per cent of capital plus 52.5 per cent of the FT-SE rise, whichever is higher. In the fifth, they get 107.5 per cent of capital, or capital plus 52.5 per cent of the FT-SE increase.

As an added protection against a sharp fall in the index in the last six months of the bond's life, the final return is based on an average of the index over the half year. The offer is open from February 8 to March 19.

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Peps offer monthly income

BY LINDSAY COOK

TWO personal equity plans have been launched this week, offering a monthly income facility, in an attempt to attract building society investors who are disenchanted with savings rates.

Fidelity launched a high income fund, which should pay 6 per cent with no tax deducted, because it is designed as a tax-free personal equity plan. M&G expects to pay 5 per cent from its Managed Income Pep.

The Fidelity Tax Free Income Plan will invest half in high-yielding shares and half in fixed-interest stocks.

While there is always a risk of loss of capital with equity investment, the fund will choose blue chip companies and privatisation shares. The intention is to focus on 50 companies with solid records of paying out increasing dividends from their profits. Un-



Whitaker, attractive offer

like building society accounts, there is a potential for growth of capital and income.

Income can be paid monthly or quarterly or be repaid into the plan. The maximum investment each financial year is £6,000. There is an initial 2 per cent charge and a 1.25 per cent annual fee. Those who withdraw in the first three

years will face a charge. This starts at 3 per cent in year one and then tapers off.

There is a double Pep option, which allows investors to apply for a 1992-3 plan and a 1993-4 plan at the same time. The money for the next financial year will be held in the Fidelity cash fund, currently paying 6.8 per cent gross, until April 6.

M&G's fund, managed by Peter Whitaker, will concentrate on shares and will invest up to 40 per cent of the portfolio in fixed-interest funds. The fund aims for a yield above that of the FT all-share index. This combination of tax-free monthly income from the Pep and the prospect of capital growth when equity share prices increase, makes this an attractive alternative to building societies, he said.

There is an initial charge of 4.5 per cent and an annual fee of 1.5 per cent.

Cazenove fund open to the public

BY SARA MCCONNELL

FOR the first time, Cazenove is offering a personal equity plan to members of the public, rather than existing clients. The Unit Trust Management's Bond & Utility Pep, to be launched on Monday, will invest in a combination of low-risk bonds and higher-risk but high-yielding utilities stocks.

Harry Henderson, Cazenove's managing director, said the fund was aiming for a gross yield of 7 per cent. Income and capital gains on

investments in the fund will be tax free for those putting in the full £6,000 via a Pep. Those wanting to invest less will not be able to go into a Pep, but will be able to invest in the fund. The minimum is £3,000 in the first year, and £500 thereafter.

Just under half the fund will be invested in bonds. The remaining 51 per cent will be invested in the shares of the privatised water, electricity, gas and telecommunications

companies. Returns from equities are not guaranteed, but dividends on utilities stocks are forecast to grow by 10 per cent, Mr Henderson said.

There will be an initial fee of £35 for those taking out a Pep, with no further Pep charges for the first year. In subsequent years, there will be a £20 annual Pep plan charge. In addition, there will be an initial charge of 0.2 per cent on the fund and an annual management fee of 0.5 per cent.

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Counting the cost of falling payouts

By Sara McConnell

THE projected payout on a 10-year endowment has fallen by more than 25 per cent in two years, from £68,500 to £50,000. Norwich Union gave the first figure to a policyholder in January 1991 and the second one last month.

Other policyholders are likely to see similar falls in payouts from all life companies over the next few years. Most leading life offices have now declared lower bonuses for policies maturing after the beginning of this year, with shorter term policies being particularly hard hit.

At least one life office, Sun Alliance, has this year cut bonus rates on its 10-year policies by 15 per cent. Those whose policies are not due to mature for some years can expect lower bonuses in years to come because of poor investment returns over the past few years.

Tom Warner, a Weekend Money reader from South Glamorgan, asked Norwich Union in January 1991 to provide him with a projection of the benefits he could expect to receive from his 10-year endowment policy.

He had taken the policy out in 1984, funding it with income received from a £20,000 annuity. At the beginning of 1991, Norwich Union calculated there should be a payout of £68,500 in three years' time when the policy matured. The calculation assumed the then current declared bonus rate would continue.

At the beginning of this year, Mr Warner asked Norwich Union to do the same calculation. The company calculated that the maturity value would be £50,000. Such val-



Unhappy returns: Tom Warner, a Norwich Union policyholder whose projected payout has fallen by over 25 per cent

ues are not guaranteed but depend on the performance of the life office's investments.

Mr Warner wrote to Norwich Union querying the drop. He said: "I needed an explanation of why Norwich Union had made such a mess of its investments." In a letter to Mr Warner, Philip Scott, Norwich Union's general manager, finance, said: "During 1991, it became clear that the poor investment return of

1990 was not an isolated event which would soon be corrected in 1991, but that it was the beginning of a fundamental change from the high investment returns of the late 1980s into a period of lower inflation and lower investment returns." By this time, the company could not assume that current bonus rates could be sustained for calculating projections and had assumed a lower rate. Mr Scott said:

"The industry and ourselves were more optimistic a couple of years ago than we are now." Of the £50,000 payout projected, £41,641.40 was guaranteed, as this was made up of a sum assured of £27,206 and annual bonuses already added of £14,435.40. Mr Scott said that Norwich Union was writing to all its policyholders to explain why their payouts were lower this year. Norwich Union has cut bonuses on 10-

year policies maturing in 1993 by just over 7 per cent. Payouts on 10-year policies have been hardest hit because of bad years in recent times. Ray Milne, assistant general manager marketing at Scottish Life, said: "Policies taken out ten years ago had had up to five bad years when stockmarkets had slumped, with 1990 and 1991 being the worst. Investments were badly hit by the Gulf war at the start

of 1991. Scottish Life has cut payouts on its 10-year policies by just over 10 per cent from £6,926 to £6,216.

The payout assumes the policy was taken out by a man who was 29 at the start and continued putting £30 a month into the plan for ten years. The same policyholder would have received £7,323 from Royal London, which, at the moment, tops the payout table drawn up each year. Several large life offices, including Scottish Amicable, Scottish Widows and Eagle Star, have not yet declared bonuses for this year.

However, Standard Life, the largest life office, gave its policyholders a shock last week when it cut bonuses across the board. Its new payout on 10-year policies is £6,839, down from £7,672 last year, pushing it down to ninth place so far in the table of 10-year payouts for this year.

According to Money Management, the specialist magazine, Standard Life's payout was the fifth highest of the life offices last year. Standard Life has also slipped into second place in the league table of payouts on 25-year endowments, cutting both annual bonuses and the terminal bonuses paid on maturity. The standard policyholder paying £30 a month will get £63,394 instead of £66,087 last year.

So far, General Accident is the only life office to have raised payouts on longer term policies, producing a maturity value of £65,464. John Hylands, deputy general manager and actuary at Standard Life, said: "Payouts on 25-year policies are going to decline gradually over the next few years."

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Chipping away at an old problem

By Brian Collett

DRIVERS whose vehicles are damaged by grit laid by council lorries on cold nights may be able to claim the cost of repairs.

Many aggrieved drivers have merely nursed their anger. David Cheshire, however, turned his anger into action and successfully pursued a claim against Buckinghamshire county council.

Mr Cheshire, a British Airways purser, was driving home along a narrow road to Chalfont St Giles, Buckinghamshire, late at night when a council lorry approached, laying down grit to protect the surface against an expected

frost. The gritting lorry passed and showered Mr Cheshire's almost-new car. The result was extensive chipping of the paintwork, which Mr Cheshire reported to the council.

The council's insurers, which handled the claim, at first disputed responsibility. Mr Cheshire's claim was taken up by the Which? Personal Service, a part of the Consumers' Association, and the council's insurers eventually paid for the repairs, three months after the incident.

Such a claim is unusual, as drivers accept that gritting is part of a council's duty to

make roads safe and prevent accidents. A successful claim is even rarer.

Sara Checkley, a senior consumer lawyer with the Consumers' Association, said: "There has to be negligence. Speed and type of road and other factors have to be considered. The driver of the lorry had gone over towards Mr Cheshire's car. It happens quite frequently."

However, because grit being laid by a moving lorry bounces off the road, the process is certain, sometimes, to cause chipping of other vehicles' paintwork, even if no negligence is involved. A court

ruling on claims for vehicle damage in which negligence is not alleged, admitted or proved, is not known.

However, although councils have a duty to make roads safe, they do not have a right to damage property.

Bob Booker, a civil disputes specialist lawyer with Bookers & Bolton, of Alton, Hampshire, suspects that an action would succeed even without proof of negligence.

He says: "If you chuck something from a lorry and it causes damage, there is a chance of staging a claim, especially in view of what has now happened."

SAYE deals for share option plans offered

A NEW series of Save As You Earn contracts for share option schemes will be available from April. The F series will pay a tax-free bonus at the end of five years equal to nine times the monthly contribution.

The E series pays 12.5 times the monthly sum at the end of five years. After seven years, 18 times the monthly payments will be paid compared with 25 times for the current

series. That means that the interest rate is effectively being cut from just under 7.5 per cent to 5.53 per cent over five years and to 5.87 per cent from 7.83 per cent over seven years.

At the end of the period, participants may buy shares in the company they work for at a discounted price, fixed at the outset. Should the price have fallen, they can take the tax-free cash instead.

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Beware the salesman who gives answers that seem too good to be true

From Mr J. C. Grainger
Sir, Lindsay Cook's comment "investors who were sold wrong policies before the act may be less pleased" regarding Lauto statistics (January 23) is all too true.

In 1981, I wanted an endowment policy for investment purposes. I was so naive that I believed what I was told. The salesman claimed to have policies designed specially for diabetics. He gave the reply I most wanted to hear to every question (whether true or not). I received a policy with maximum life cover (minimum investment). It stated in the policy details that later policies could be combined with the original as one (for various

benefits). I confirmed this with him. Within two years, I made use of this and started another policy to combine with the first. Receiving statements a year later, I discovered not only were the policies separate but there had been minimal investment.

In explanation I was told that I knew policies could not be combined due to my diabetes (contradicting his original statement). Reminding him that I said the policy was for investment, I asked why the investment was negligible. He told me a diabetic must have maximum cover for his debts and dependents (even now I have none of either) — his concern was not for the client

but what he thought. Informing him that I was cancelling the second policy there and then, he said I should cancel the first and not the second (the only person to gain by this was the salesman — he would lose commission only if I cancelled the second).

After the company was taken over, I discovered the policy could be converted to the format I originally desired. I did so despite some loss. I also wrote to the new owners in an attempt to receive some form of compensation, if only an apology. They replied that as I did not take the salesman's advice when I cancelled the second policy they could not bear any responsibility. Re-

cently, I have worked within the insurance business and realise that one purpose of Lauto is to put an end to fraudulent sales. Unfortunately, it is all too easy for salesmen to cover up misdeeds. My own experience showed that many of the best salesmen were those who knew least about what they were selling.

Just as the police must now record interviews only by this means can it be shown how many people are deceived into taking out unrequired policies. Yours faithfully,
J. C. GRAINGER,
15 River Cottages,
Main Road,
St Pauls Cray,
Orpington, Kent.

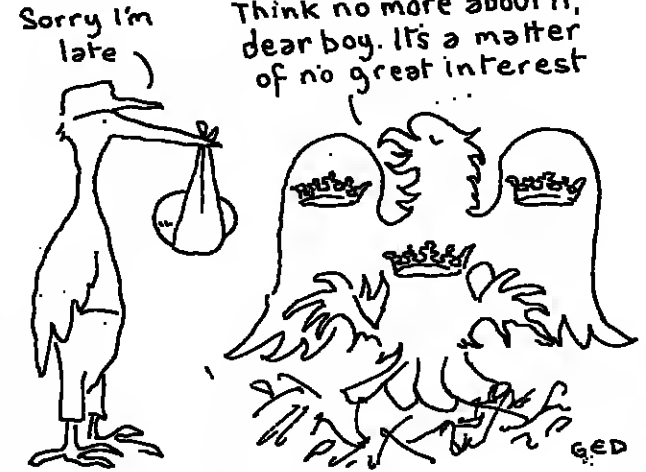
Double numbers

From Mr J. K. Chalton
Sir, My experience is somewhat similar to that of your two previous correspondents (Letters, January 23), but in my case it is the account number and not the account name which is at issue.

Some 11 weeks ago, I had occasion to query a premium payment which I was due to pay on a policy which my wife and I have held with Crown Financial Management for some 13 years. In reply, the company stated that the policyholders for the number, which I had correctly quoted, were Mr and Mrs D. A. Sindall.

Although I have phoned and written to the company, I still have no confirmation that the premium, now paid, has been credited to my policy rather than the other bearing the same number.

Yours faithfully,
J. K. CHALTON,
9 Hernan Close,
Sway, Lymington,
Hampshire.



Courteous service over late payment

From Mr Leon Price
Sir, With all the recent bad publicity about credit card companies being all too quick to charge cardholders interest if they miss a payment date, I would like to put the other side of the story. Like many others, I usually clear the balance every month to avoid paying any interest, and I regard this

as a very good deal. I recently went away on holiday for three weeks over Christmas. When I returned on January 2, my December Barclaycard statement was waiting for me.

The latest date for payment to be received by Barclaycard was Tuesday, January 5, and I normally pay by bank giro credit, which takes about three or four days, so I was a bit worried about having to pay interest charges.

On the Monday, I phoned Barclaycard to explain what was happening and without any fuss they agreed to waive any interest charges for late payment: this was confirmed in my January statement.

In the 20 years that I've had a Barclaycard, I have always received helpful and courteous service in similar circumstances and I'm sure that this is the experience of the vast majority of cardholders of most credit cards. Yours faithfully,
LEON PRICE,
15 Greenway Close,
New Southgate,
N11.

Savings rethink urged

From Mr G. R. Wolfenden
Sir, In reply to the letter from the Director of Savings (Weekend Money, January 23), I feel that he is being too clinical in his approach to cost cutting. Whilst I acknowledge that it is the duty of every business and government department to cut or contain costs whenever possible, it is also the moral obligation of the government and National Savings to encourage young people to save and be thrifty. To raise the minimum purchase of Premium Bonds for the under 16-year-olds and raise the minimum deposit on National Savings Bank accounts does nothing to help this cause.

Please realise that in the real world there are many pensioners who like to save a little with a £5 deposit in the DNS bank, but £10 is too much. Similarly, there are many grandparents who like to buy a £10 Premium Bond for a newly born baby, but £100 is too much against their income.

I do hope that the Director of Savings can be big enough to rethink his policy and reduce the minimum levels that are being introduced shortly.

Yours faithfully,
G. R. WOLFENDEN,
23 St Annes Road,
Leyland, Preston,
Lancashire.

Visa voucher checks

From Mr Patrick Bowden
Sir, I would like to assure Mrs Lucy Baruch ("Visa Vouchers Open to Change", Letters, January 16) that the Visa system incorporates checks and balances which protect the cardholder from erroneous or fraudulent transactions.

If the amount billed to her account had been incorrect, she would have certainly had recourse to the bank which issued her card. Retailers who accept Visa payment cards are usually aware that they may not amend sales vouchers after they have been signed by the cardholder. Of the 400,000 locations accepting Visa cards in the UK, only a tiny percentage submit unacceptable vouchers and these are normally picked up by the bank when they are processed.

Banks have implemented strict screening procedures and new technology, such as electronic point of sale terminals, to reduce still further any margin for error. Mrs Baruch is right to be concerned; all payment cardholders should check their monthly statements against their receipts as a matter of course.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK BOWDEN
(Executive Vice-President, Marketing),
Visa Europe, Middle East and Africa Region,
PO Box 253, W8.

From Mr E. Janson,
Sir, Not only Visa vouchers (Weekend Money letters, January 16) but building society savings books are open to charge. I kept under my name a separate book of savings for my brother, who was not capable to attend to his affairs. I had the full power of attorney.

When my brother died, his last salary was overpaid and the building society sent the sum back on request from the Postmaster General, without our consent. Eventually, we were informed. It took five letters to get a letter confirming that no employee has a right to deal with the money in my savings book. But no apology. Yours sincerely,
E. JANSON,
36 Diddon Lodge Close,
Hythe, Southampton.

Letters are welcomed, but The Times regrets it cannot give individual replies or advice. Independent professional advice should be sought.

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Saturday portrait: Riddick Bowe, by Srikumar Sen, boxing correspondent

Champion succeeds in fighting shy of heavyweight image

Riddick Bowe is 25 and already he has achieved his most important goal — not winning the world heavyweight title, but being different. "I've always wanted to be different from everyone else," he says. "Then I found boxing. That was the way I could be different from everybody else. I always went against the crowd."

Bowe certainly went against 100 years of American tradition when he achieved the distinction of being the first American heavyweight to turn down a challenge from a British heavyweight, Lennox Lewis, for fear of losing.

Bowe's manager, Rock Newman, protests loudly that it was Lewis who turned down a £3 million offer, forgetting to mention that, in the event of not arriving at a deal by private treaty, the matter should go to purse bids. Others justified Bowe's refusal to meet Lewis on the grounds of it making good business sense. Both could cash in now and meet later in a "mega mega" promotion.

The claims and counter-claims go on and on, but arguments aside, Riddick "Big Daddy" Bowe is different from all other champions, refreshingly different, if only for wanting to be different.

One of 13 children, he was brought up in Brownsville, New York, an estate where cocaine dealers patrolled every street corner. Yet he resisted the temptation to try drugs. He listened to his mother, Dorothy, who told him: "If you wind up in jail, I won't get you out. If you call me from jail to get you out, I won't even talk to you."

Bowe says: "I'd tell her about my dreams, and how I was going to be heavyweight champion, and she would say: 'Shut up, boy, don't just end up in jail. Try to use your head for something other than a grease holder. If you ever go to jail, you can cancel Christmas.' When his mother used to work on a machine operator at a factory making medicine bottles, he walked with her to her bodyguard. He woke up early in the morning to bring her back.

It was different also that Bowe decided to marry a neighbourhood girl, Judy. He is certainly different from his father, who only turned up to see his mother to find out whether the next child was a boy or a girl. Bowe hates being away from his children, Riddick Jr, six, Riddick, four, and Brenda, two. "My father did nothing for me," Bowe says. "He died last year. They wanted me to go to the funeral, but nothing doing. My mother was my father, my sister, and my brother."

Bowe wants to go to Howard University, Washington, to study business administration, even while he is champion. He said: "A lot of athletes think it is not their concern what is going on in the world, but we owe it to the kids to tell them what is the right way and

'People think boxers are dumb, drunks and drug abusers. I'm not like that. I'm an All-American Boy'

what is the wrong way. I would like to tell the people that I'm a true champion, and that I am for the people. People think boxers are dumb, stupid, drunks and drug abusers, and that they bother women. But I'm not like that. I'm an All-American Boy. I've never had a drink in my life, or smoked a cigarette, or taken drugs."

You feel he is genuine, not simply trying to jump on the publicity bandwagon. His 81-year-old trainer, Eddie Futch, says he would not have taken Bowe under his wing if he did not believe in him.

Bowe has always respected an older voice. When he gave a boy at school a bloody nose for saying that Joe Frazier was better than Muhammad Ali, the principal of the school told him to try boxing at a gym in the Bedford-Stuyvesant area of Brooklyn. Bowe listened to her, and under the coach, George

Washington, he learnt to throw the Cherry Tree Special — a one-two. Washington said: "When you hit them with that, they fall like a cherry tree." And they did.

It was the start of his boxing career, and he won all but seven of his 211 amateur bouts. 147 of them by knockouts. He won two Golden Gloves titles.

When Bowe was stopped by Lewis in the second round of the super-heavyweight final, the big promoters did not stop to think that his performance might have had something to do with his foot and hand injuries with his brother, Henry, dying of a wasting disease, or that his sister, Brenda, had been stabbed to death a few weeks earlier by a drug addict.

They called him Ridiculous Bowe, and said he had quit. Ferdie Pacheco, the NBC commentator, said that he had "an enormous talent, but no mental stability whatsoever". Even up to the time when Bowe met Evander Holyfield for the world title last November, they said Bowe had no heart. Bowe proved them wrong in that contest.

The lack of interest from the big promoters and managers gave Newman, another maverick, his chance to step in. He went to see Bowe in Brownsville, and found him about to give up boxing and go to college or into the army. Newman, a former car salesman, had no trouble selling himself and Bowe a career in heavyweight boxing, and signed him up. He even told him that in four years' time, by September 1992, he would be world heavyweight champion. Newman's forecast was out by only two months.

Newman sent Bowe to Futch in Reno. The famous trainer recalls a test he gave the boxer to see if he had dedication. "At my age, I had little time to waste," Futch said. "I told him I was going out of town, but he should still go on his morning run at six o'clock. I didn't leave town really. I was waiting for him at the end of the run. When I saw him puffing up that hill in the snow, I thought the boy was going to be OK." Futch taught Bowe the



art of mixing the jab and the hook with the big right he already had.

After 30 bouts, Bowe arrived at the No. 1 position by stopping Pierre Coetzee, of South Africa, last May. It was too late for the moneyman to muscle in. Futch, who has trained four world champions — Ken Norton, Joe Frazier, Larry Holmes and Michael Spinks — thinks Bowe can surpass them all. "If he lives up to his potential, he could be better than all of them at their best," he said.

Even as a celebrity, Bowe's behaviour towards the public is

different from that of other champions. When he arrives at a function, there are no mafia-type heavies clearing the way for him, pushing onlookers aside. He does not pass by quickly. His three-man band — himself, Futch and Newman — are free of the restrictions of movement that come with being tied to mainstream promoters.

Today, Bowe has \$8 million in the bank, and contracts for \$100 million from HBO, a leading cable network, ITV, and clothes sponsors. Yet he has aligned himself with causes in South

Africa and Somalia. He has bought his mother a house on Coney Island, and he himself lives in a modest house in suburban Maryland. He is building a \$2 million house in Fort Washington for the entire Bowe family.

Tonight he appears at Madison Square Garden, where Willard beat Moran in 1916. Dempsey knocked out Brennan in 1920. Joe Louis knocked out Buddy Baer and outpointed Jersey Joe Walcott in the 1940s, and where Bowe's idol, Ali, met Frazier in an epic battle in 1971. Before his own

crowd of 15,000, Bowe meets Michael Dokes, a former champion, but also a former drug addict still in the process of rehabilitation. Dokes's reflexes are not what they used to be.

He has the punch to cause trouble for Bowe, as he did for Holyfield, but it is not likely that he has recovered from the knockout by Donovan "Razor" Ruddock that put him in hospital and out of boxing for 19 months. When a well-wisher said "good luck, Michael," Dokes replied: "Thank you. Pray for me."

POINT-TO-POINT

Que Bella set to cheer Gabb

BY BRIAN BEEL

AN OWNER can acquire a certificate from more than one master of foxhounds confirming that his horse has been fairly hunted.

This practice, however, serves little purpose as Kate Gabb found to her cost at the Heythrop point-to-point last year after winning the maiden race on Que Bella.

The Jockey Club only recognised the first certificate lodged and, though Gabb had also won from an eligible hunt, she was robbed of her first success and fined £150.

Que Bella is, thus, still a maiden and is one of the 105 entries for this race — split four ways — at the South Midlands Hunt Club meeting today.

Coincidentally, in division three is Deep Spartacus, who finished first in a hunter chase at Sedgfield but who also lost the race at Portman Square, having been found to have had a prohibited substance in his blood. Que Bella and Deep Spartacus both look capable of making quick recompense.

By far the most impressive performance of any maiden last year was Hops And Pops who, never off the bit, won the fastest time of the day at Lockinge. This was the six-year-old's only run so far and his eagerly-awaited return today, in the restricted race, should enable Robert Alner to gain his fifth success of the season.

Dun Gay Lass, who has set her sights again at the Cheltenham Foxhunters', should have little trouble in the open race at the Jeddore despite the likely presence of the former Gordon Richards-trained Randolph Place, with Olympic event rider Ian Stark aboard.

After a year's absence, Le Plat D'Or could return to run prominently in the Blyth Valley qualifier at the Old Raby while Wall Game should show his superiority in the open for his new stable.

Since he won the lightweight race at the East Down in Ireland in 1989, Sanballat has run exclusively in hunter chases, winning four out of 14 races. He has been out of sorts lately — his last win was just over two years ago at Stratford and is now reverting to point-to-pointing. He is engaged at the South Midlands but is more likely to start in the open race at the Wheatland.

Two horses out to make quick amends after coming to grief when looking dangerous on their initial appearances are Ring The Pipeline in the North Cornwall restricted and Jazac in the confined at the Thurstow.

Today's meetings

Jeddore, Friths Heath, 1 mile west of Kelso, first race 12.30. North Cornwall, Royal Cornwall showground, 1m W of Wadebridge (12.30). Old Raby Hunt Club, Wotton Castle, 3m W of Bishops Auckland (12.30). South Midlands Area Hunt Club, Heythrop, 2m E of Chipping Norton (11.00). Thurstow, Horse Heath, 3m E of Linton (12.00). Wheatland, Elyton-on-Savern, 6m SE of Shrewsbury (12.00).

Hawkins banned for six days

COLIN Hawkins was suspended for six days for misuse of the whip after winning the opening race at Kelso yesterday on Roy's Dream. He was hard at work on his mount all the way up the run-in before catching the odds-on favourite, Mister Tuttle.

A report from the veterinary officer revealed that Roy's Dream had returned from the race with six wels, one of which showed blood, on his off-quarter. The stewards interviewed Hawkins and, having listened to his evidence and viewed the video recording, found him guilty of improper riding. The ban begins on February 14.

Jimmy Jack heads for a third tilt at the Champion Hurdle following his all-the-way victory. One of the most versatile and colourful characters in National Hunt racing, the



Richards: Champion tilt

nine-year-old may have had nothing to beat in the Ship Hotel Morebattle Hurdle but he treated his five rivals with contempt.

Starting at 8-1 on, Jimmy Jack held a commanding lead throughout and coasted home unchallenged under Neale Doughty to record his eighth victory and his fourth consecutive triumph in this particular event.

His trainer Gordon Richards said: "If the horse is fit and well on the day, he goes for the Champion — and he won't have another run beforehand."

Admittedly today's race didn't tell us that much, but we had to come here rather than take him to Sandown."

Jockey Club expands on whip proposals

BY DICK HENDER

RIDERS who exceed the Jockey Club's proposed whip guidelines will not necessarily incur a suspension, it was emphasised yesterday.

The Jockey Club's spokesman, David Pipe, stressed that racecourse stewards will only look at a jockey's riding if he hits his horse six or more times, under new recommendations put forward by the disciplinary committee.

"It was never our intention

to restrict riders to a specific number of blows. There is no six and out rule. It is making the whole business of explaining it that much more difficult," he said.

"The stewards may well find that a jockey is riding within the guidelines on what is correct even if he uses the whip ten times."

Pipe was reacting to the publication by the Jockeys' Association of comments on the proposed whip changes which it claims were ignored.

Michael Caulfield, secretary of the Jockeys' Association, described the proposed guidelines as "the starting bell for the rapid decline of British racing."

Caulfield was critical of the new "six-hit trigger mechanism" and complained that the make-up of the working group that examined the instructions was "unbalanced".

However, Pipe countered: "The group comprised all the people required for such an examination. The jockeys had

ample opportunity to put their side but Richard Dunwoody was one of the nominees and he never turned up. The other riders in the group only came to the meetings now and then.

"Their views were listened to, considered and debated but the fact was the others did not agree with them."

The Jockey Club's stewards will meet on Monday to consider the new proposals which would be implemented on July 5, if approved.

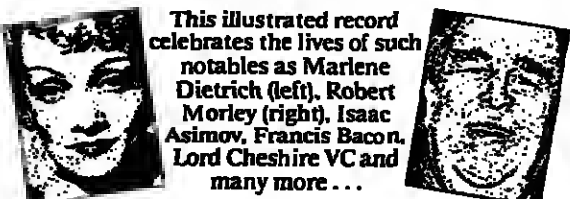
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3 11-722E PLASTIC SPACEMAN 35 (G.S.) (R. Phipps) 10-10-3. P. Hobbs 55

Long Hurdles: 11-0 Plastic Spaceman, 7-4 Last of the Bunch, 9-4 Wide Boy.

1992: 11-0 Plastic Spaceman, 10-10-3 P. Hobbs (9-1) G. Richards 9-10.

FORM FOCUS

LAST OF THE BUNCH pulled up after seventh run at Heythrop last time, previously 3rd and 2nd of 7 in 10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100-101-102-103-104-105-106-107-108-109-110-111-112-113-114-115-116-117-118-119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-127-128-129-130-131-132-133-134-135-136-137-138-139-140-141-142-143-144-145-146-147-148-149-150-151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-696-697-698-699-700-701-702-703-704-705-706-707-708-709-710-711-712-713-714-715-716-717-718-719-720-721-722-723-724-725-726-727-728-729-730-731-732-733-734-735-736-737-738-739-740-741-742-743-744-745-746-747-748-749-750-751-752-753-754-755-756-757-758-759-760-761-762-763-764-765-766-767-768-769-770-771-772-773-774-775-776-777-778-779-780-781-782-783-784-785-786-787-788-789-790-791-792-793-794-795-796-797-798-799-800-801-802-803-804-805-806-807-808-809-810-811-812-813-814-815-816-817-818-819-820-821-822-823-824-825-826-827-828-829-830-831-832-833-834-835-836-837-838-839-840-841-842-843-844-845-846-847-848-849-850-851-852-853-854-855-856-857-858-859-860-861-862-863-864-865-866-867-868-869-870-871-872-873-874-875-876-877-878-879-880-881-882-883-884-885-886-887-888-889-890-891-892-893-894-895-896-897-898-899-900-901-902-903-904-905-906-907-908-909-910-911-912-913-914-915-916-917-918-919-920-921-922-923-924-925-926-927-928-929-930-931-932-933-934-935-936-937-938-939-940-941-942-943-944-945-946-947-948-949-950-951-952-953-954-955-956-957-958-959-960-961-962-963-964-965-966-967-968-969-970-971-972-973-974-975-976-977-978-979-980-981-982-983-984-985-986-987-988-989-990-991-992-993-994-995-996-997-998-999-1000-1001-1002-1003-1004-1005-1006-1007-1008-1009-1010-1011-1012-1013-1014-1015-1016-1017-1018-1019-1020-1021-1022-1023-1024-1025-1026-1027-1028-1029-1030-1031-1032-1033-1034-1035-1036-1037-1038-1039-1040-1041-1042-1043-1044-1045-1046-1047-1048-1049-1050-1051-1052-1053-1054-1055-1056-1057-1058-1059-1060-1061-1062-1063-1064-1065-1066-1067-1068-1069-1070-1071-1072-1073-1074-1075-1076-1077-1078-1079-1080-1081-1082-1083-1084-1085-1086-1087-1088-1089-1090-1091-1092-1093-1094-1095-1096-1097-1098-1099-1100-1101-1102-1103-1104-1105-1106-1107-1108-1109-1110-1111-1112-1113-1114-1115-1116-1117-1118-1119-1120-1121-1122-1123-1124-1125-1126-1127-1128-1129-1130-1131-1132-1133-1134-1135-1136-1137-1138-1139-1140-1141-1142-1143-1144-1145-1146-1147-1148-1149-1150-1151-1152-1153-1154-1155-1156-1157-1158-1159-1160-1161-1162-1163-1164-1165-1166-1167-1168-1169-1170-1171-1172-1173-1174-1175-1176-11

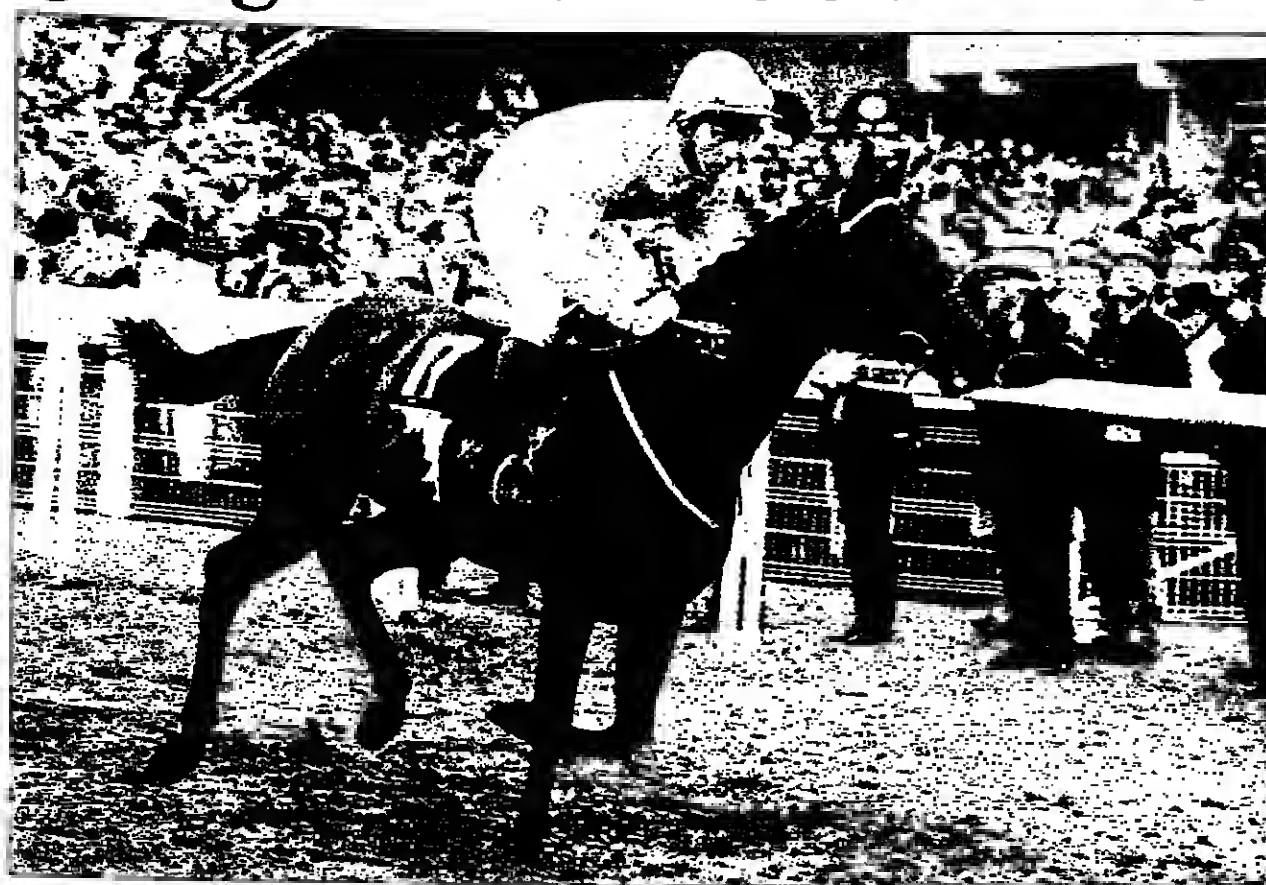
Ruling edges closer to title shot

By George Rae

RULING, third in the last two Champion Hurdles, edges further along the festival trail in the Agfa Hurdle at Sandown this afternoon.

He was less than two lengths behind Morley Street and Nomadic Way in 1991, and last season failed by only half a length and a short head against Royal Gait and Oh So Risky.

His effort last year, though,



Testing time: Ruling attempts to strengthen his Champion Hurdle claims at Sandown Park today

Nap: BRACKENFIELD (2.00 Chetstow)
Next best: Winter Squall (4.10 Sandown)

carried a high price tag. "Another few strides and he would have won," his trainer, Puke Johnson Houghton, said, "but he came back with a bad tendon."

Ruling made an encouraging return to the track at Haydock two weeks ago. Although he needed the run, as Johnson Houghton had warned, he jumped well and travelled sweetly until weakening from the second last.

"I was very pleased," Johnson Houghton said. "He has come on a lot from Haydock. His season has been geared to Cheltenham and we will see how he runs tomorrow before making any more plans."

"If he does need another run, he would probably go back to Haydock later this month rather than for the Tote

Gold Trophy. I don't rule the Tote race out completely, but he would have to give plenty of weight away."

With regular partner Peter Niven riding at Chetstow, Mark Dwyer takes over today. However, Johnson Houghton hopes Niven will resume the association in the Champion Hurdle.

"Peter gets on well with Ruling and, if he's available, I

hope he'll be riding for us at Cheltenham," he said. "A stiff two miles suits Ruling well and Cheltenham seems to bring out the best in him."

Ruling, who is favourably treated by the conditions of today's race, is not the only one looking to press a Champion claim. Morley Street, rather erratic this year, knows all about Cheltenham, although Valfniet remains untied

against the best. He has made his way up through the handicap ranks, initially of lenient marks, but is improving swiftly. This is his audition for the big time.

Rushing Wild, like Valfniet trained by Martin Pipe, has his own Cheltenham claim to argue in the Agfa Diamond Chase. He has shot up the handicap but needs a win here if he is to be a serious threat to

The Fellow in the Gold Cup. Yet the most pleasing story would be a bold show from Blazing Walker in the Marston Moor Chase at Wetherby. Dogged by injury since an exhilarating win over Katabatic and Waterloo Boy at Aintree almost two years ago, he is back in business at last.

Victory under top weight is asking a lot but he deserves to win another good race soon.

12.55 Home Counties.
1.25 Gay Ruffian.
2.00 Trainglot.

2.35 Rushing Wild.
3.10 Valfniet.
3.40 Fragrant Dawn.
4.10 Winter Squall.

GOING: GOOD (CHASE COURSE); GOOD TO SOFT (HURDLES)

12.55 RIPLEY FOUR-YEAR-OLD HURDLE

(Grade II; limited handicap; £18,840; 3m 110yds) (4 runners)

1 41213 CLURICAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
2 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
3 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
4 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89

FORM FOCUS

CLURICAN (trained second success when beating Laidlaw in the Free (free) chase at Sandown (2m 110yds) on 11/12/92. On 11/12/92, he was 11th of 11 in the Tote race at Sandown (2m 110yds) on 11/12/92. On 11/12/92, he was 11th of 11 in the Tote race at Sandown (2m 110yds) on 11/12/92.

1.25 SKILLY ISLES NOVICES CHASE

(Grade I; £19,110; 2m 410yds) (11 runners)

1 211121 CAMLOT KNIGHT 21 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
2 211121 CAMLOT KNIGHT 21 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
3 211121 CAMLOT KNIGHT 21 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
4 211121 CAMLOT KNIGHT 21 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89

FORM FOCUS

CAMELOT KNIGHT 21 (2m 410yds) on 11/12/92. On 11/12/92, he was 11th of 11 in the Tote race at Sandown (2m 110yds) on 11/12/92. On 11/12/92, he was 11th of 11 in the Tote race at Sandown (2m 110yds) on 11/12/92.

2.00 TOTE JACKPOT HANDICAP HURDLE

(Grade II; £13,550; 2m 50yds) (11 runners)

1 41213 CLURICAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
2 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
3 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
4 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89

FORM FOCUS

CAMELOT KNIGHT 21 (2m 410yds) on 11/12/92. On 11/12/92, he was 11th of 11 in the Tote race at Sandown (2m 110yds) on 11/12/92. On 11/12/92, he was 11th of 11 in the Tote race at Sandown (2m 110yds) on 11/12/92.

FORM FOCUS

ROLLIN WILLIAM 51 (2m 410yds) on 11/12/92. On 11/12/92, he was 11th of 11 in the Tote race at Sandown (2m 110yds) on 11/12/92. On 11/12/92, he was 11th of 11 in the Tote race at Sandown (2m 110yds) on 11/12/92.

2.35 AGFA DIAMOND CHASE

(Grade II; limited handicap; £18,840; 3m 110yds) (4 runners)

1 41213 CLURICAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
2 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
3 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
4 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89

FORM FOCUS

CLURICAN (trained second success when beating Laidlaw in the Free (free) chase at Sandown (2m 110yds) on 11/12/92. On 11/12/92, he was 11th of 11 in the Tote race at Sandown (2m 110yds) on 11/12/92. On 11/12/92, he was 11th of 11 in the Tote race at Sandown (2m 110yds) on 11/12/92.

3.10 AGFA HURDLE

(£10,113; 2m 110yds) (8 runners)

1 41213 CLURICAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
2 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
3 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
4 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89

FORM FOCUS

CLURICAN (trained second success when beating Laidlaw in the Free (free) chase at Sandown (2m 110yds) on 11/12/92. On 11/12/92, he was 11th of 11 in the Tote race at Sandown (2m 110yds) on 11/12/92. On 11/12/92, he was 11th of 11 in the Tote race at Sandown (2m 110yds) on 11/12/92.

3.40 ELMBRIDGE HANDICAP CHASE

(£5,472; 2m) (5 runners)

1 41213 CLURICAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
2 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
3 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
4 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89

FORM FOCUS

CAMELOT KNIGHT 21 (2m 410yds) on 11/12/92. On 11/12/92, he was 11th of 11 in the Tote race at Sandown (2m 110yds) on 11/12/92. On 11/12/92, he was 11th of 11 in the Tote race at Sandown (2m 110yds) on 11/12/92.

4.10 FEVERY NOVICES HURDLE

(£2,916; 2m 110yds) (10 runners)

1 41213 CLURICAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
2 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
3 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
4 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89

COURSE SPECIALISTS

CLURICAN (trained second success when beating Laidlaw in the Free (free) chase at Sandown (2m 110yds) on 11/12/92. On 11/12/92, he was 11th of 11 in the Tote race at Sandown (2m 110yds) on 11/12/92. On 11/12/92, he was 11th of 11 in the Tote race at Sandown (2m 110yds) on 11/12/92.

WETHERBY

THUNDERER
1.05 Rustic Air, 1.35 The Red One, 2.05 Winnie The Witch, 2.35 Abnegation, 3.05 Deep Sensation, 3.35 Houghton, 4.05 Bollen Patrick.
Brian Beal: 1.35 The Red One.
The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.05 WINGSPAN.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT

1.05 ACCOM NOVICES HURDLE

(£2,477; 2m) (25 runners)

1 41213 CLURICAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
2 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
3 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
4 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89

1.35 RYEDALE HUNTER CHASE

(Amateur; £1,674; 3m 110yds) (4)

1 41213 CLURICAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
2 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
3 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
4 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89

2.05 BIF MARES ONLY NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE

(£2,742; 2m) (7)

1 41213 CLURICAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
2 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
3 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
4 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89

2.35 HELMSLEY HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,846; 3m 10yds) (7)

1 41213 CLURICAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
2 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
3 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
4 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89

3.05 MARSTON MOOR CHASE

(Grade II; limited handicap; £15,228; 2m 50yds) (8)

1 41213 CLURICAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
2 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
3 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
4 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89

3.35 SKIPTON NOVICES CHASE

(£2,924; 2m 50yds) (8)

1 41213 CLURICAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
2 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
3 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
4 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89

4.05 REVALUX HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,635; 2m) (5)

1 41213 CLURICAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
2 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
3 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
4 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89

COURSE SPECIALISTS

CLURICAN (trained second success when beating Laidlaw in the Free (free) chase at Sandown (2m 110yds) on 11/12/92. On 11/12/92, he was 11th of 11 in the Tote race at Sandown (2m 110yds) on 11/12/92. On 11/12/92, he was 11th of 11 in the Tote race at Sandown (2m 110yds) on 11/12/92.

Ladbrokes cut Peter Scudamore's odds to win the jockeys' championship from 5-2 on to 4-1

after he won on Damier Blanc, Hawthorn Blaze and Big Ben Dun at Lingfield yesterday to move within five wins of Richard Dunwoody.

TODAY'S RACES

SANDOWN PARK

12.55: Chirican has had a break after five quick races and could be the value to beat Shaikh Ahmed's pair, Home Counties and Viardot.

The winner of two minor races, Chirican also has solid placed form behind Mohana at Cheltenham and Dare To Dream at Lingfield.

1.25: After three easy wins round the minor tracks, Gay Ruffian is thrown in at the deep end here but Martin Pipe's improving novice looks up to it. Young Hustler may find this coming too soon after Doncaster where Dawson City was probably flattered by his proximity to Sybilian at Newcastle.

2.00: Northern stables hold a strong hand and Silars Stalker is given narrow preference over Trainglot, who may start at a false price. The Ramsdens have placed Silars Stalker skilfully to win seven of his nine races over hurdles, six of them in handicap company, and he goes well for Adrian Maguire.

2.35: Despite the smaller field, Rushing Wild faces a stiffer task than when beating Cool Ground in receipt of 27lb here last month. However, he should win again and enhance his Gold Cup prospects.

3.10: Railing is hard to win with but has an undeniable chance on these terms. Twice placed in the Champion Hurdle, he can well for a long way on his Haydock return before blowing up. Valfniet looks a bigger danger than the top weights, Morley Street and Gran Alba.

CHEPSTOW

1.00: Plastic Spacage can end a frustrating run of seconds by beating suspect jumper Last 'O'

The Bunch and doubtful stayer Wide Boy.

1.30: Surprise Welsh National runner-up Riverdale Boy can underline his Aintree credentials by following up a hard-fought Taunton win. Fiddlers Pike, aided by a 6lb rise in the weights overnight, looks the danger.

2.00: Brackenfield is narrowly preferred to fellow northern challengers Lo Stregone and Thistle Monarch. Mary Reveley's progressive novice will relish this test of stamina and can extend his unbeaten run this season to five.

PHIL MCLENNAN

THUNDERER

1.25 Formal Invitation, 1.55 Co-Chin, 2.25 Teakwoodrunner, 2.55 Pithy, 3.25 Captain Frisk, 3.55 Wellington, Brown, 4.25 Alfortia, Brian Beal: 3.55 Wellington, Brown.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (GOOD IN PLACES)

1.25 CHARLECOTE NOVICES HURDLE

(Div II; 4-Y-O; £1,480; 2m 110yds) (10 runners)

1 41213 CLURICAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
2 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
3 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
4 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89

1.55 CHARLECOTE NOVICES HURDLE

(Div II; 4-Y-O; £1,480; 2m 110yds) (9)

1 41213 CLURICAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
2 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
3 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
4 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89

2.25 LUXLEY SELLING HURDLE

(£1,749; 2m 110yds) (7)

1 41213 CLURICAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
2 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
3 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
4 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89

2.55 ASCOT HANDICAP CHASE

(£3,031; 2m 110yds) (4)

1 41213 CLURICAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
2 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
3 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
4 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

1.50 Set The Fashion, 2.20 Respectable Jones, 2.50 Strat's Legacy, 3.20 No Submission, 3.50 Absolutely Fast, 4.20 Simcor.

GOING: STANDARD

DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

1.50 ALPINE HALL GUARANTEED SWEETSTAKES

(£2,208; 1m 20yds) (8 runners)

1 41213 CLURICAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
2 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
3 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
4 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89

2.20 COCHRANE CLIMAXING STAKES

(£2,489; 7f) (5)

1 41213 CLURICAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
2 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
3 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
4 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89

2.50 COLLINGSWOOD HANDICAP

(£2,976; 1m 40yds) (10)

1 41213 CLURICAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
2 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
3 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
4 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89

3.20 JERVIS HANDICAP

(£3,808; 1m) (7)

1 41213 CLURICAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
2 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
3 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89
4 214000 RYAN 56 (2.0.5.5) (Alec C Smith) M Houghton 11-4 W Merton 53 89

3.25 BET WITH THE TOTE NOVICES CHASE

(Qualifier: £2,997; 3m) (12)

France may pack too many guns for Scots

FROM BRYAN STILES IN PARIS

SCOTLAND will emerge into the cauldron of noise at Parc des Princes this afternoon with more than their usual apprehension. They are having to rely on a heavily reconstructed pack — some of it jerry-built — as they attempt to win in Paris for the first time since 1969.

They made heavy weather of defeating a woeful Ireland team three weeks ago, and since then they have had to glue together their front row, drafting in Peter Wright, who is normally a tight-head prop, to take over at loose-head because Alan Watt is unfit. The French scent a weakness and will be eager to exploit it.

Indeed, the Scots will face a daunting examination all round from the French, who are reveling in their new-found pragmatism. The bloody political infighting which put French rugby in

share the five nations' title, calculating they can see off the rest of their opponents and hoping that England, who do not look as solid as in the previous two seasons, will stumble against the home countries, where the outcome of matches often pays little regard to form.

France have a seasoned pack which gave England a hard time and will relish getting to grips with a Scottish eight which lacks a hard core of experience, but which luckily still has the services of Reed, the Bath lock, who passed a fitness test on his injured thigh yesterday.

Tordo, the France captain and hooker, who has managed to channel his energies away from explosive confrontation and into the provision of calculated forward power, will be hoping a crushing victory over Scotland will prove he is the right man to lead his country. France have previously lost to Argentina and England under his leadership.

At least Scotland have one trump card in Gary Armstrong, who will make life extremely uncomfortable for his scrum half rival, Hueber.

Armstrong is regarded by many as the best scrum half in the world now that Farr-Jones has retired. The self-effacing Scot puts Robert Jones, of Wales, ahead of him in the pecking order, but Jones does not cause as much confusion in the ranks of the opposition as Armstrong.

His electrifying, sniping runs close to the scrum when opposing back rows have been fooled into thinking he was going to move the ball wide, provide a tactic that will give the Scots an edge, at times.

Scotland have also used the attacking skills of their captain, Gavin Hastings, to telling effect in recent seasons. His unexpected injection of pace entering a three-quarters move at an angle has proved a fruitful source of tries. Hastings is not likely to find much comfort from this afternoon's labours, however, as France should extend their 11-match winning sequence against them at home.

DETAILS

	PWOL	F	A	Pts
Scotland	1	1	0	15
England	1	1	0	15
France	1	0	1	15
Ireland	1	0	1	15
Wales	0	0	0	0

RESULTS: Jan 16: England 16, France 15; Scotland 15, Ireland 3.

FIXTURES: Today: France v Scotland; Wales v England, Feb 20; Ireland v France, Scotland v Wales, Mar 6; England v Scotland, Wales v Ireland, Mar 20; Ireland v England, France v Wales.

turmoil at national level early in the season has been put aside — they have even selected a beaten team en bloc. The French hierarchy might not have liked the way several of its players performed when losing by a point to England at Twickenham last month, but it has decided to do things the English way.

It has opted for consistency in selection, reminding itself that the players it picked to face England were the best in France. Narrow defeat away from home, after losing two centres to injury and being treated in cavalier fashion by Lady Luck, persuaded the selectors to dispense with old habits and keep faith with their players.

France feel they can still

TODAY'S TEAMS IN PARIS

France		Scotland	
J-B Lafond	15	Full back	A J Hastings*
P Saint-André	14	Right wing	A G Stanger
P Sella	13	Right centre	S Hastings
T Lacroix	12	Left centre	A G Shiell
P Horras	11	Left wing	D A Stark
D Camberabero	10	Stand-off	C M Chalmers
A Hueber	9	Scrum half	G Armstrong
L Armary	1	Prop	P H Wright
J-F Tordo*	2	Hooker	K S Milne
L Seigne	3	Prop	A P Burnell
P Benetton	6	Flanker	B J Turnbull
A Benazzi	4	Lock	A I Reed
O Roumat	5	Lock	D F Cronin
L Cabannes	7	Flanker	I R Morrison
M Ceciliani	8	No. 8	G W Weir
*Captain			

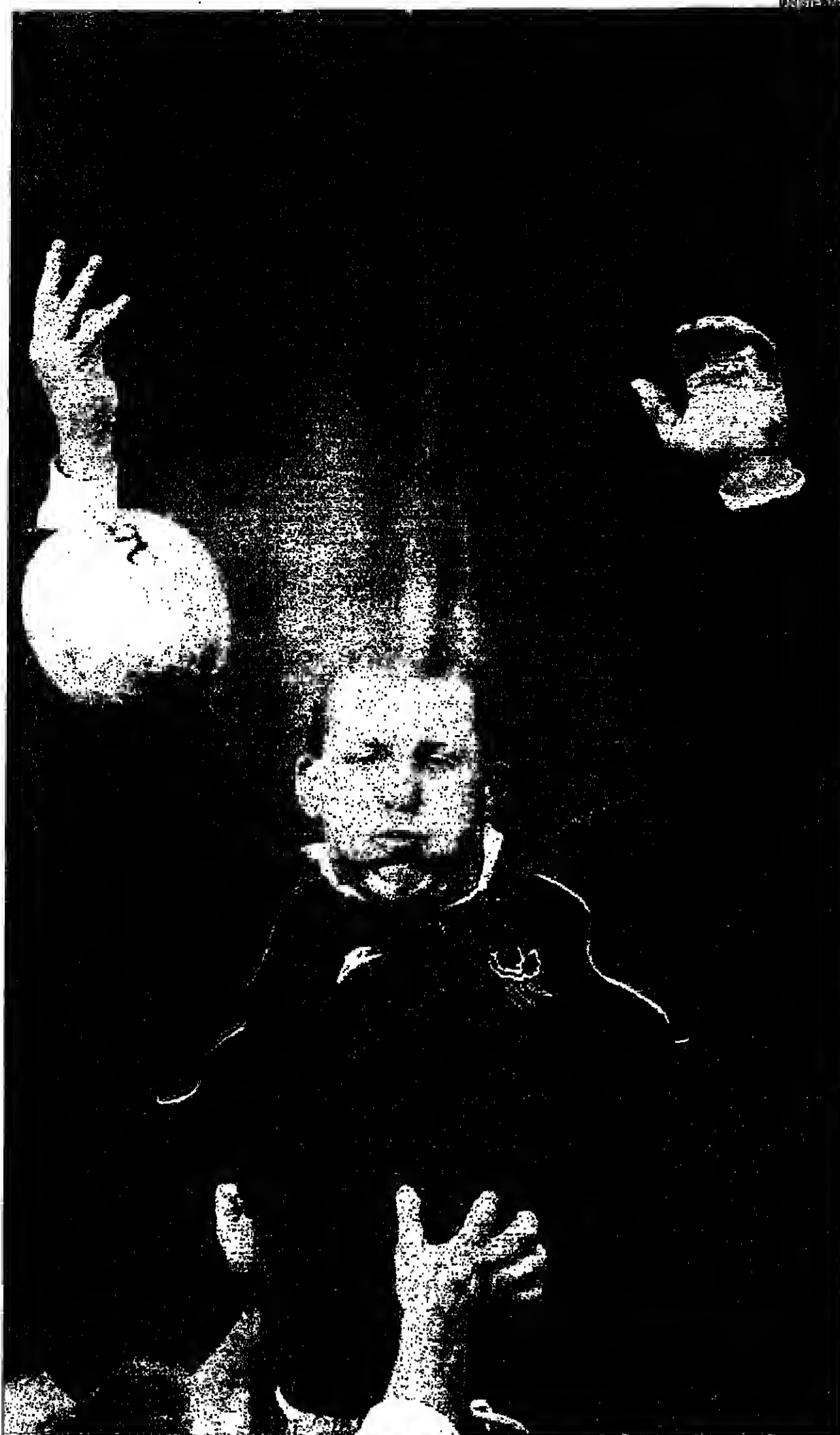
Reference: W O Bevan (Wales)

REPLACEMENTS: 16 S Ougier (Toulon), 17 F Mermel (Racing), 18 J Cazalhou (Toulon), 19 E Melville (Toulon), 20 S Grou (Auch), 21 F Landreau (Grenoble).

REPLACEMENTS: 16 K M Logan (Strathclyde), 17 P J Townsend (Glasgow), 18 A O Nicol (Dundee HSF), 19 C D Hogg (Melrose), 20 G Isaac (Glasgow), 21 I Corcoran (Glasgow).

PC Dooley: long arm of the lineout

David Hands meets England's giant lock forward who has had mixed fortunes in Cardiff



England's tower of strength: Dooley soars to claim a throw-in during squad training yesterday



Make the most of Wade Dooley, in Cardiff today and for the rest of this international season. We will not see his like again. Oh, there will be 6ft 8in (and more) lineout experts so long as rugby union retains the lineout but England's fourth division will not be throwing up international forwards in future.

Dooley is a throwback to the haphazard days of 1985 when the England selectors worked their way through over 50 players in one calendar year. At the same time he has adapted wonderfully well to modern requirements; his somewhat angular figure, the very model of the work ethic that has kept him to the forefront of the world's lock forwards over the past four years.

From the time he strode onto the international stage against Romania in January 1985, a green-as-grass policeman from Preston Grasshoppers, his most admirable quality was the desire to learn. "I knew that, coming from junior rugby, I would have to be ten times fitter so I went away and worked out a routine that suited me," Dooley said. "I have stuck with it. I am a little bit staid in my lineout ways and when Paul Ackford came along, as a No. 4 jumper like me, I dug my heels in. He went to No. 2 and became the best at it in the world. But I like to think I'm flexible and I recognise the importance of support and helping the other jumpers."

Two years ago, Dooley thought that he was making his last visit to Cardiff. There is no attempt to conceal that the Arms Park is not his favourite ground. Indeed, Cardiff, where England play Wales today, earns a chapter in his recent autobiography, *The Tower and the Glory*, partly because of the unhappy events of 1987 when four England players, Dooley among them, were suspended, off after the match.

Robert Norster, now Wales' team manager, seemed to have the Indian sign over Dooley: "He was one of the best technical players I have met. By modern standards he was not a big man but his timing was impeccable and he ruled his support players with a rod of iron." How great the satisfaction, therefore, when Dooley replaced Norster in the British Isles team against Australia in 1989.

Before 1991 Cardiff was just an unpleasant place to play in, everyone snarling at

you, the obvious hostility," he said. "But the strange thing about that year was that when Paul and I walked in the city centre it was so quiet, there was no banter with the fans. It gave us an inkling that the writing was on the wall."

Thanks to Simon Hodgkinson's seven penalties England won in Cardiff for the first time since 1963. At Twickenham a year later Wales did not get a point on the board and Dooley highlighted his fifteenth England appearance with his third try.

"It seemed like a good time to finish but the management had a quiet word with a number of us and encouraged us to stay a bit longer. "I would like to be part of a third grand slam team — that would be special. I'm chewing over the Lions in New Zealand this summer but that depends on form. After that I'll reflect on whether to do a couple more seasons with the 'hoppers. But it will definitely be the end with England this season."

Dooley has always been his own man. He is generally recognised as a slow starter to the international season and his start this season has been slower than usual, partly because of the ragged first halves England played against Canada and South Africa, partly because he was a frustrated bystander against France last month.

"I appreciated the encouragement to stay from the rest of the team after I pulled out of that match, but you want to be out there. When I stop playing I won't take up coaching. It would do my head in, it really would."

For Dooley the confrontation is the nub of the game. If the lineout is a jungle, then that is warfare in which he revels, regardless of new laws intended to clean up that phase. The old dog — Dooley is 35 — has yet to perfect the trick of jumping with the inside arm after years of fending off all comers. "I was pulled up in the club match last week but when it comes to Jerry Guscott calling from the centre that I'm doing it in training, things have come to a pretty pass. I'm working at it."

But not for much longer. Dooley's young family — Sophie, three, and Sara, ten months — requires time and though Sharon, his wife, "has given me the go ahead for the Lions", the Blackpool Tower is preparing to become just another, if not tourist attraction, at least a footnote in local lore.

England coach deplores new laws

BY PETER BILLS

THE restrictions imposed on attacking rugby by the new laws are destroying back play, Dick Best, the England coach, said yesterday. Best fears the changes, particularly the scrum-feed law, will again exert a damaging influence in the international at Cardiff today, just as they did when England played France three weeks ago.

He believes the new regulations make it almost impossible to put consistent pressure on opponents. "Perhaps the worst aspect of the law changes has been that back-line play is being destroyed," Best said. "There was far too much kicking in the international with France. But in fairness to the players what

else can they do when they are faced with half the opposition forwards standing off, even from third-phase ball?"

"The game is being dominated by the forwards because of these law changes. And I expect it to be the same throughout this five nations' championship. England will get better but I don't think you will see any structure in any of the matches this season."

The new laws, he said, meant there was no longer any pattern to matches because some of the fundamental structures of rugby had been removed. Sides could no longer camp in their opponents' 22. Defenders simply cleared their lines through securing the put-in at the scrum. "As a result you see matches like that against France when the

game just see-sawed from one side to the other.

"Neither side managed to exert sustained pressure. That has become impossible because if you continue going forward you end up losing the ball. And how can anyone seriously believe it is right, that even with third or fourth-phase loose possession, you cannot find the space to use your backs out wide?"

It is rumoured that the committee which introduced the laws, originally on a trial for a year, is ready to make them permanent. Best believes that the players and coaches should be consulted.

"The trouble is the people on these committees just make the laws and say get on with it. But they should have the courtesy to ask those closely

involved what they think. They are not sufficiently close to the game to understand the full implications of their actions."

"There was a lot of kicking against France but this is the way the game will go now. It is the changing of fundamental basics which so upsets me. For example, is it such a tragedy if people use their outside arm to secure lineout ball? If you administer the metre gap between the lineout men it should not matter. You just wonder what law changes will be brought in next."

"It makes me very angry that players who have been coached a certain way all their careers are suddenly being asked to change fundamentals overnight. You cannot do that."

WRU calls meeting over leaked report

THE Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) has been forced to organise a special general meeting after the storm caused by the leaking of the confidential report on players involved in the South African Rugby Board centenary tour in 1989 (David Hands writes).

The date of the meeting, later this month, has yet to be confirmed and yesterday, Denis Evans, the WRU secretary, said there was no evidence that any player had received the reported sum of £30,000 for his involvement in the tour.

"We looked at that part of it a long time ago and there is no definite proof," Evans said. Nevertheless, the districts, whose representatives make

up the union, will demand their pound of flesh, not so much from players, who may or may not have received unauthorised sums, but from administrators who kept silent about the report.

At a time when the WRU has much to enthuse over — a revitalised team and a cash flow the envy of many — the last thing it wants is a spotlight cast on its internal politics.

Revenue from Wales' opening five nations' championship match with England today has now been confirmed at £1.92 million, with £550,000 from television rights and more than £600,000 from advertising and sponsorship.



WHO'S THE ENERGY BEHIND WALES AND ENGLAND ON FEBRUARY 6th 1993?

THE BRITISH GAS CHALLENGE
WALES v ENGLAND CARDIFF FEBRUARY 6th 1993

British Gas
ENERGY IS OUR BUSINESS

Striker's temperamental flaws likely to be overlooked for World Cup tie

Taylor primed to call on Wright's explosive talent

LAST month, Ian Wright, admonished and suspended by the Football Association, was regarded as a villain. Everything has since fallen so conveniently into place that, as long as his luck holds, he promises to score a hat-trick against San Marino at Wembley in ten days and be feted as a national hero.

If he achieves such status, albeit by piercing one of the weakest defences in the World Cup qualifying competition, his place in the England side, which was so recently supposed to be in danger, will be established in the minds of the public, if not in that of Graham Taylor.

Although Gary Lineker was a consistent choice before he retired, the England manager has otherwise conducted a widespread search for forwards. In his 27 international matches, ten others have been tried and only two — Alan Smith and Alan Shearer — have been retained for more than two successive games.

With Shearer unlikely to recover from a cartilage operation, even if he is nominally included in the squad to be announced on Monday, the list of strikers Taylor was being urged to consider grew longer by the minute. Deane, Ferdinand, Hateley, Quinn, Bull — even Collymore — had their backs. But then, on Wednesday, Wright emerged from exile with such devastating effect that, assuming he is available on Wednesday week, he will collect his third consecutive cap.

His selection, though, carries an inherent danger which could be exposed during the



STUART JONES
Football Commentary

more taxing qualifying fixtures which lie ahead. His manager at Arsenal alluded to it during the club's celebrations at Elland Road last Wednesday.

"You have to accept him, warts and all," George Graham said, implying that the blunders within the erratic and tempestuous 29-year-old Wright might be immovable.

The England team already features one unpredictable and fiery element in Paul Gascoigne. Since infamously wrecking his knee, though, Gascoigne has kept his regrettable buffoonery off the pitch. Wright, in reacting to the mildest provocation by aiming a punch at David Howells in the north London derby two

months ago, graphically demonstrated that he remains potentially explosive on it. The flaw in temperament will doubtless be of no consequence against San Marino. The rugged Turke and especially the wily Dutch, who visit Wembley for one of the most crucial fixtures in group two on April 28, will be aware that they could benefit from lighting the short fuse on which Wright burns.

Given the choice, Taylor would probably have recalled the partnership he initially planned to develop when Lineker retired. Against France at Wembley a year ago, to the surprise of everyone and particularly the captain he dropped with scarcely a warn-

ing, he allied Shearer with David Hirst.

They lasted until the interval when Lineker was brought on for Hirst, who has since been so frequently afflicted by injury that the pair have never been reunited. Predictably, he has been ruled out yet again.

That was one of Wright's unforeseen slices of fortune. He will also benefit from his club's unexpected pile-up of fixtures. When his three-match suspension was imposed, it was originally thought that he would by now be so short of genuine practice that Taylor might be reluctant to pick him to start.

Wright was scheduled to come back for the first leg of the Coca-Cola Cup semi-final against his old club, Crystal Palace, at Selhurst Park tomorrow. Instead, after Arsenal had improbably recovered from a two-goal deficit at home to Leeds, he was able to return four days earlier. By February 13, in three games' time, he should be in prime condition.

Fate has apparently set the ideal stage for the forward who, in spite of maintaining a rate of almost a goal in every other club game, has yet to score for his country. Once he breaks his duck, he could be highly productive the length of his international career will be governed almost as much by his ability to channel his exuberance and aggression as his undoubted instinct for goal.

So far that has not been consistently evident. Unless he reforms, he will be no more than a shooting star.



The Wright stuff: Arsenal's match-winner is in line for Wembley call-up

Knowles declares resolve

Peter Knowles wants to win the BVC English national badminton championships at Norwich for his girlfriend, Caroline, who was killed in a road accident a fortnight ago.

The England international, who is the No. 3 seed, reached the quarter-finals yesterday by defeating Roger Mistry, of Nottingham, and Paul Edevane, of Hampshire.

Knowles, 23, has made it one of his aims this season to beat for the first time the leading English players, Darren Hall, the No. 1 seed, and Anders Nielsen, the champion, both of whom reached the second round.

Baily given wild card

James Baily, the Australian Open boys' tennis champion, has been given a wild card for the LTA men's indoor satellite tournament at Eastbourne next week.

Wild cards have also gone to Miles McLagan and Ross Matheson, from Scotland, and Tim Henman, of Oxfordshire.

McKenzie ill

Boxing: Duke McKenzie has developed tonsillitis and his World Boxing Organisation super-bantamweight championship defence against the Puerto Rican, Daniel Jimenez, at Lewisham next Wednesday has been postponed.

Carl Thompson, the British cruiserweight champion, will box the American, Arthur Weathers, for the World Boxing Council international title at York Hall, London, on February 17.

England draw

Basketball: England have been drawn with Ukraine, Slovakia and Bosnia-Herzegovina in group C of the qualifying tournament for the 1993 European championship, which will be played from May 30 to June 6 in Wroclaw, Poland.

RAF ahead

Skiing: Craig Bonnington, of the RAF, and Sacha Sveinsson, of the Army, finished second and third in the Smirnoff special slalom at the Portakabin British Services international championships at Altenmarkt, Austria.

Atkins out

Hockey: Knee injuries have forced the Great Britain defenders, Jill Atkins and Jo Toon, to withdraw from the England party for two matches against Ireland at Bisham Abbey this weekend.

Polian dismissed

American football: The Buffalo Bills have dismissed their general manager, Bill Polian, four days after the team was routed by the Dallas Cowboys in the Super Bowl.

Zanardi signs

Motor racing: Alessandro Zanardi, the Italian driver, has been signed by Lotus, the Formula One team, to partner Johnny Herbert.

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL

Gresley offer stern FA Vase test

By WALTER GAMMIE

WHEN Peachaven and Telcombe, the Sussex County League champions, beat Sittingbourne United, the strongly-fancied Beazer Homes League side, by 4-1 in the fourth round of the FA Vase, they were entitled to expect a kinder fifth-round draw than the one which tomorrow sees them visiting Gresley Rovers, the beaten finalists in 1991.

"When we drew Sittingbourne, we were told they were the side with the best chance in the south," Alan Pook, the Peachaven manager, said. "Now we've got to play the team who seem to be everybody's favourites up north."

"We will be going away to be positive — you've got to be when there is extra time in the first match. The team is experienced, the players enjoy playing with one another and have a real desire to win."

Gresley are expected to field six of the side that lost the final in a replay to Guiseley. Having spent £16,000 on their Moor ground to satisfy the

Beazer Homes League — they were accepted into the midland division at the third attempt — Peter Hall, the chairman, says playing plans are running ahead of schedule.

"Before the season, I wanted us to finish in the top half of the table, Steve Dolby, our manager, wanted a top-six finish and here we are, top," he said. The recipe must be right because the crowds at Gresley have been larger than those of long-established rivals, Burton Albion, who are in the premier division. Burton were watched by 382 against Worcester on Monday, while 504 saw Gresley trounce Blythwood 9-1 in a Derbyshire Senior Cup tie. The Football Association has granted Bashley a hearing next week to discuss their complaint that the referee refused to give them choice of ends for their FA Trophy second-round tie at Northampton last Saturday. Bashley, who lost 1-0, hope to be given a replay.

GOLF

Montgomerie closes gap

FROM MEL WEBB IN SINGAPORE

THE Johnnie Walker Classic turned into the heavyweight championship of Singapore yesterday as Nick Faldo and Colin Montgomerie finished the second day on 135, five under par, as joint leaders. Faldo (6ft 3in, 14st 10lb) and Montgomerie (6ft 11in, 15st 10lb) proved that fine game was not a necessary credential for success in the steamy atmosphere at Singapore Island Country Club. On a day even hotter than the first, Faldo came in with a 68, Montgomerie a 67.

Montgomerie, whose round had only one blemish, a bogey on the 10th hole — his first — played what might prove to be the most significant shot of the tournament with the last stroke of his round. He went through the back of the green on the 9th and found himself enmeshed in a heavy, clinging lie. He admitted later that he hit his 20-yard chip much too hard, and the ball was going probably 30 feet past when it hit the pin and dropped into the hole for his third birdie. Montgomerie gazed skywards and strolled off, striving for nonchalance

but achieving little more than mild embarrassment. There is a hole-in-one prize being offered here on the player's weight in Johnnie Walker for an ace at the 17th, and Montgomerie was a little shamed to admit that he

SECOND ROUND	
GB and Ireland	68: N. Faldo, 67: M. Montgomerie, 68: P. W. Higgs, 69: E. E. E. (SA), 71: B. C. Chai Sang-Ho (Kor), 69: 67: 137: S. Tomlinson, 73: 64: 138: C. W. Higgs, 69: 72: M. A. Jones (Sg), 69: 72: A. P. (Sg), 67: 71: 135: B. R. (Sg), 67: 70: 136: L. Lane, 70: 69: R. Davis (Aus), 70: 69: G. Brand, 72: 67: G. H. (Aus), 71: 69: J. H. (SA), 68: 71: F. M. (Philippines), 70: 68: 139: C. Montgomerie, 68: 67: N. Faldo, 67: 68: 136: E. E. E. (SA), 71: B. C. Chai Sang-Ho (Kor), 69: 67: 137: S. Tomlinson, 73: 64: 138: C. W. Higgs, 69: 72: M. A. Jones (Sg), 69: 72: A. P. (Sg), 67: 71: 135: B. R. (Sg), 67: 70: 136: L. Lane, 70: 69: R. Davis (Aus), 70: 69: G. Brand, 72: 67: G. H. (Aus), 71: 69: J. H. (SA), 68: 71: F. M. (Philippines), 70: 68: 139: C. Montgomerie, 68: 67: N. Faldo, 67: 68: 136: E. E. E. (SA), 71: B. C. Chai Sang-Ho (Kor), 69: 67: 137: S. Tomlinson, 73: 64: 138: C. W. Higgs, 69: 72: M. A. Jones (Sg), 69: 72: A. P. (Sg), 67: 71: 135: B. R. (Sg), 67: 70: 136: L. Lane, 70: 69: R. 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BOXING 32

BOWE: AN AMERICAN
HEAVYWEIGHT WHO
CHAMPIONS RESPECTABILITY

SPORT

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 6 1993

GOLF 35

MONTGOMERIE AND
FALDO SHARE
LEAD IN SINGAPORE

March towards third successive grand slam faces revitalised opposition at Cardiff stronghold

English challenge Welsh faith

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

Butcher chosen to match Keegan success

By LOUISE TAYLOR

SUNDERLAND gambled yesterday by appointing Terry Butcher as player-manager. The former England captain, 34, had revived his playing career at Roker Park after being dismissed as manager by Coventry a year ago.

When Malcolm Crosby was sacked by Sunderland on Monday, Butcher was regarded as an outsider for the task of reviving Kevin Keegan's success at nearby Newcastle United.

Butcher, who has a two-year contract, is Sunderland's fifth manager in the past ten years. He will be assisted by Bobby Ferguson, his former coach at Ipswich Town. Butcher's career seemed finished after knee injuries, but he confounded the doubters by establishing himself in Sunderland's defence. He built a rapport with the club's supporters so strong



Butcher: gamble

that his ritual of post-match cheerleading landed him in trouble with police after an FA Cup defeat at Sheffield Wednesday.

Such cultivation of the crowd possibly clinched his appointment. Butcher said: "I want to keep playing and would much rather be out on the pitch than in an office."

That was also the intention at Coventry but knee trouble restricted Butcher to seven appearances before his dismissal. Now he has a second managerial chance at Roker Park where his agenda includes determining the future of 17 players whose contracts expire this summer. That also gives him scope to restructure Sunderland.

By the time Sunderland move to their new ground in 1995 they hope to be reaping Premier League rewards. These will probably yield Manchester United and Aston Villa up to £2.3 million each in revenue this season from the Premier League's £37.5 contract with BSkyB and the BBC.

Steve Agnew, who failed to make an impact on football's elite, yesterday exchanged Blackburn Rovers for Leicester City in a £250,000 transfer. Justin Fashanu, 32, joined Aldershot — the struggling Scottish Premier League side, his thirteenth club.



Study in concentration: The longevity of English hookers is near legendary, as a series of frustrated replacements will testify (David Hands writes). Today, Brian Moore, gap-toothed, furious snarl and all, becomes the most capped of them on his 43rd appearance for his country. Over the past 25 years, three men have dominated the No. 2 shirt: John Pullin, the Bristol farmer from Aust, who won 42 caps between 1966 and 1976; Peter Wheeler, the

Leicester insurance broker, who won 41 caps between 1975 and 1984, and, like Pullin, captained England; and now Moore, the Yorkshire-born Harlequin whose international career began in 1987.

"If you were in the trenches, it would be Brian you would want alongside you more than anyone else," Dick Best, the England coach, said of his pack leader. Moore, 31 last month, has become a dominant figure on England's rugby land-

scape, both for his formidable, demanding presence on the field, and his role as spokesman on the team's commercial aspirations off the field, not inappropriate for a civil litigation solicitor.

He compensates for his comparative absence of physique — he is 5ft 9in and 14st 3lb — with a fiery competitiveness. Defeat is anathema. He threatens to sustain his form through to the 1995 World Cup and beyond. Don't bet against it.

FOR the first time in a generation England will take the field against Wales at Cardiff Arms Park today without "the monkey on their backs". The monkey in question was their inability to win in Wales, which lasted from 1963 to 1991. It is a beast the Scots know well since they have been unable to win in Paris since 1969.

Instead the second round of rugby union's five nations' championship examines revitalisation, specifically that of Wales and France. Welsh optimism, ground down for so long during the 1980s, was lifted by two championship victories last season and a resurgence of self-belief; the French believe, that in defeat against England, they found a team and that belief will be tested at the Parc des Princes by Scotland.

We should, I suppose, be grateful for today's match, in Cardiff, sponsored by British Gas. When the Welsh discovered last month that England's players had not signed a participation agreement drawn up by the four home unions, they tut-tutted strenuously. "It's something of a disappointment England didn't sign," Denis Evans, the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) secretary said yesterday, "and the subject will probably be raised at the next home unions' meeting — though not by us."

Since the Princess of Wales, Jason Howard, the opera singer, the London Welsh Male Voice Choir — not to mention 570 guests paying £385 each for corporate hospitality in Cardiff Castle — are due to appear today, cancellation of the fixture was probably not on the WRU agenda.

More to the point is Wales' preparedness for their encounter with the grand slam holders. The physical work was completed yesterday in mild sunshine with no alarms from either camp. But it may be regarded as a chunk in Welsh armour that Alan Davies, their coach, was asking his players to look at their opposite numbers as individuals and then decide for themselves whether 15 Englishmen were so much better than 15 Welshmen.

The point about this England side is their collective identity. It was that which sustained them in adversity against France and, though it does not always make for entertaining rugby, their inherent composure will be a great blessing amid a 51,000 crowd, most of them seeking a new dawn.

Lacking that solid — some might say over solid — foundation, it is hard to see how Wales can fashion a win without the sort of assistance (windblown conditions and spilled catches) that England gave France. They must try to create a fluid game — which would appeal to Joel Duménil, the Frenchman refereeing his first international — in which they can use the attacking skills of Mike Rayer from full back.

Wales are fortunate to have Rayer and Anthony Clement contending for one position: both are players who can destroy opponents in broken-

field play, but that will depend on possession. In that respect England should be dominant: their scrum will be more comfortable than against France with the return of Wade Dooley, though the lock will have to curb his tendency to concede penalties at the lineout by breaking the new outside-arm law.

But what England find so hard to do is break the shell of the innate caution with which they approach games. Contrary to popular belief north of the border, they have seldom swaggered into international matches but the 1990 Murrayfield experience ended a wariness which lingers on.

They have the players for a wide game, they have a mobile No. 8 and two of the most knowledgeable flankers in the world. Wales, not short of attacking skills, lack balance in the back row where they duplicate rather than complement each other. Richard Webster has many virtues but blistering pace around the field is not one of them.

Geoff Cooke, England's manager, has acknowledged

an element of failure in creating chances. "Simply getting to the other end of the field doesn't necessarily bring you points," he said. The discipline involved in so doing, however, does decrease opposition opportunities. With one point the difference between them, England denied France any penalty kicks at goal in the final quarter at Twickenham. "During the World Cup we averaged eight penalties a match," Cooke said. "It crept up after that but against France it was seven. I would like to get it down to five."

So Wales cannot rely on Neil Jenkins to kick goals if he is denied the opportunity. They have to go for broke and will rely on adapting better to this season's laws and the referee than England. Oddly, England have never won successive matches at Cardiff: the last time they enjoyed consecutive victories in Wales was at Swansea and Cardiff in 1928 and 1930. Maybe that monkey can be removed too.

Dooley stands tall, page 34
Best's concerns, page 34
Pensive Scotland, page 34

TODAY'S TEAMS IN CARDIFF

Wales		England		
M A Rayer (Cardiff)	15	Full back	J M Webb (Bath)	15
I C Evans* (Llanelli)	14	Right wing	I Hunter (Northampton)	14
M R Hall (Cardiff)	13	Right centre	W D C Carling* (Harlequins)	13
I S Gibbs (Swansea)	12	Left centre	J C Guscott (Bath)	12
W T Proctor (Llanelli)	11	Left wing	R Underwood (Leicester/RAF)	11
N R Jenkins (Pontypool)	10	Stand-off	C R Andrew (Waspes)	10
R N Jones (Swansea)	9	Scrum half	C D Morris (Orrell)	9
R L Evans (Llanelli)	1	Prop	J Leonard (Harlequins)	1
N Meek (Pontypool)	2	Hooker	B C Moore (Harlequins)	2
H Williams-Jones (South Wales Police)	3	Prop	J A Probyn (Waspes)	3
E W Lewis (Llanelli)	6	Flanker	M C Tague (Mooseley)	6
G O Llewellyn (Neath)	4	Lock	M C Bayfield (Northampton)	4
A H Copey (Llanelli)	5	Lock	W A Dooley (Preston G Troopers)	5
R E Webster (Swansea)	7	Flanker	P J Winterbottom (Harlequins)	7
S Davies (Swansea)	8	No. 8	B B Clarke (Bath)	8

REPLACEMENTS: 16 R H St J B Moon (Llanelli), 17 A Clement (Swansea), 18 A Llanelli, 19 J D Davies (Neath), 20 A O Reynolds (Swansea), 21 P A Rutherford (Cardiff).
REPLACEMENTS: 16 P R de Glanville (Bath), 17 S Barnes (Bath), 18 M Bales (Worcester), 19 V E Upton (Bath), 20 C J Oliver (Northampton), 21 O Richards (Leicester).

*Captain

*Captain

The lady speaks her mind

New York. Yes, it's only-in-America time again. Marge Schott, a 64-year-old lady, fond of a drink and a nice big doggie called Scottie, is the owner of the Cincinnati Reds baseball team. But she has been suspended from all day-to-day involvement with her team and fined \$25,000 for using "racial slurs" in private conversation. She has referred to her top black players as "million dollar niggers", spoken of "money-grubbing Jews" and is alleged to have expressed, when discussing front-office staff, a preference for "a trained monkey" over any black person.

All very unpleasant, certainly, but only in America would this prompt not only a national outcry but official action. "She's very depressed and very upset," she feels she

has been singled out," a spokesman said. "She has apologised. On occasions, many others in baseball — A to Z — have made similar comments."

What? People in American sport making racist remarks? Ferish la pensée. Baseball's acting commissioner, Bud Selig, said: "I have been in baseball for 24 years and never heard anybody else use that kind of language." One columnist in New York — not a place that goes in for fairy stories — said that Marge "just had the biggest mouth. She wasn't any good at being one of the boys."

If this set a precedent for English sport, how many owners and chairmen would remain in charge?

Jackson heights

Well, no prizes for guessing the name of the Super Bowl's Most Valuable Player, step forward, Michael Jackson. His performance in the half-time show meant that, despite the blow-out of a game, there was no nationwide reaching

SIMON BARNES Sporting Diary

□ Andre Agassi, the Immanuel Kant of tennis, has been philosophising on the decision not to replace Tom Gorman as captain of the United States Davis Cup team. Agassi preferred John McEnroe. "To fear John los-

ing his temper as a reason for him not being Davis Cup captain is ridiculous. It shows a lack of respect for what he's offered the game... John being captain would bring a lot of spotlight to Davis Cup." No arguments there.

for the remote control. In fact, this last Super Bowl drew the biggest American television audience ever.

Of the all-time top ten shows, nine have been Super Bowls. The only programme to disrupt this sequence is the final edition of M*A*S*H. But really, the only question remaining is: how can you follow that next year? The consensus is that there are only two stars that might possibly be big enough: Madonna and Elvis.



Bowl advertisers count the cost

It pays to advertise. I think. Back to the Super Bowl television audience and, this time, its response to the several million commercials with which it was bombarded. Twelve per cent could not name the product in the ad they liked best.

When asked which ad made them most likely to buy the product, 34 per cent said none and 58 per cent said either "don't know" or "none".

Missed the cut

Easily the best sporting news of the year so far is the announcement from the Atlanta Olympic organisers that they are dropping their attempt to make golf an Olympic sport. They had wanted to play an Olympic tournament at Augusta but a dismissive remark from Juan Antonio Samaranch, the head of the Olympic movement, was enough to make them give up the idea.

Now, I could offer a very sound, intelligent, thoughtful and well-reasoned argument as to why golf should never be an Olympic sport — but, on thinking things through, I prefer to make my case on the grounds of pure prejudice.

Boxing clever

These sportswear companies can fix anything. Filia, the Italian company, is getting divine help for Riddick Bowe, one of the many world heavyweight champions knocking about the place. They have arranged for him to meet Pope John Paul II. "He's gonna bless me," Bowe said.

His manager, Rock — is that really his baptismal name? — Newman, added, in a cunningly veiled reference to Lennox Lewis, another heavyweight world champion and the one who is sort of British (in a slightly Canadian kind of way): "Since we're going to see the Pope, we might as well meet with the Pope." My dear, boxing — just like the Cafe Royale with Oscar in full flow, isn't it?

SMOOTHER THAN DES LYNAM.

The SPIRIT OF THE GAME



TELEVISION
Meat and sex,
by Lynne Truss
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bovine passports
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WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY FEBRUARY 6 1993

Time to put the past in its place

**Clive Aslet, newly
appointed editor of
Country Life,
discusses
the nation's
preservation pickle**

Smoke's got in our eyes. Debate flames hotly. I dare say one might spot a phoenix or two sinking back into the ashes. But enough of metaphors; none is adequate to convey the degree of muddle over the Windsor Castle fire. This confusion is extraordinary, since one of the few areas where Britain can still claim to be top is, for better or worse, conservation.

We have older buildings than the United States has; they are more durable than the wooden temples of Japan; they have not been knocked about by war as much as those elsewhere in Europe. Some writers even claim that the British are so locked into a conservationist mind-set that we neglect that priority of modern life: the creation of wealth. We are accused of preferring a dream of the past to the rigours of the industrial present. Yet, for all this, we rarely agree on what should be done or get it right.

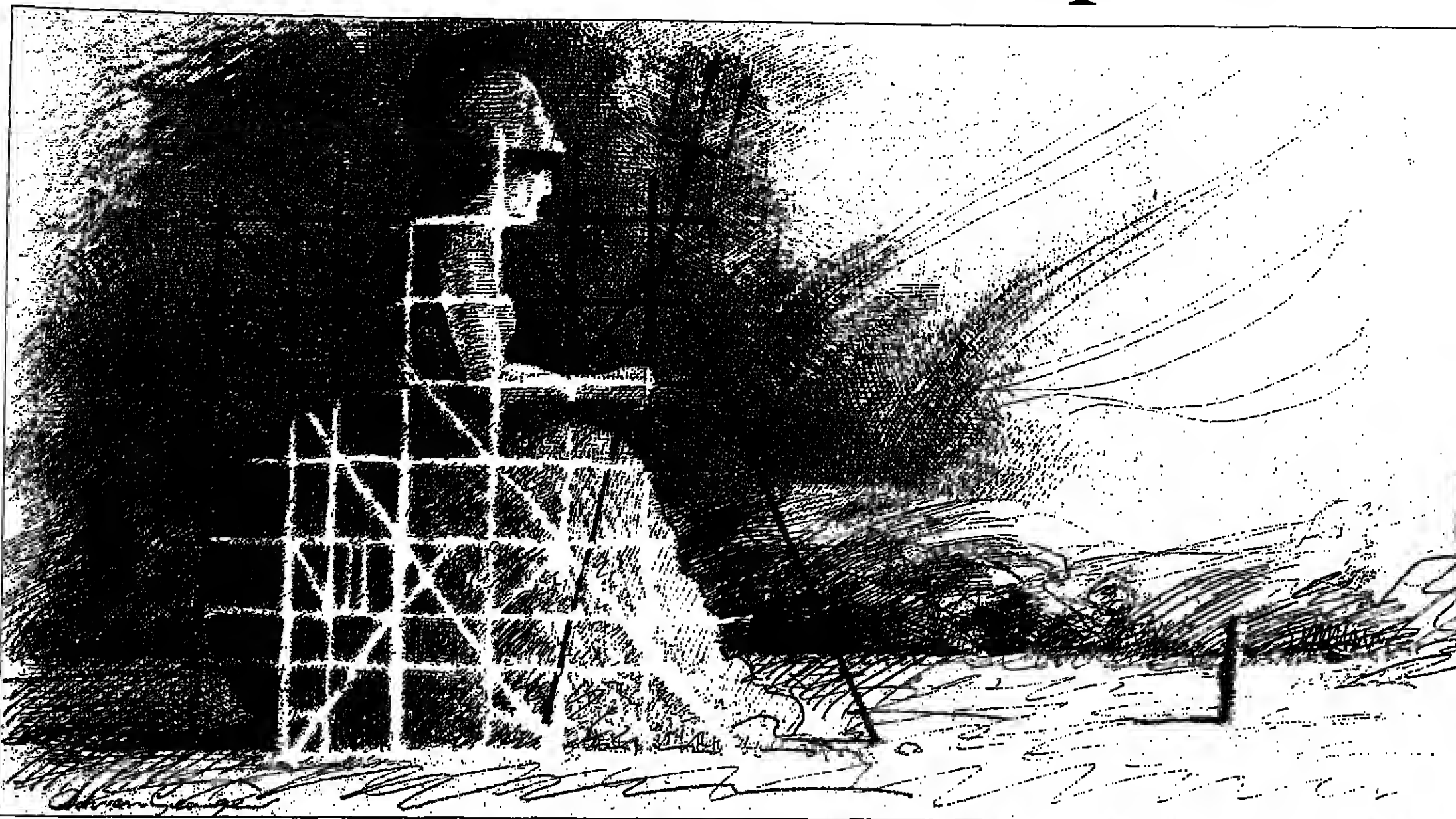
A storm rages over Eros, the scantily draped sculpture that — until being taken away for restoration last year — had perched above Piccadilly Circus for a century. What will happen to him? Surely, once rejuvenated, he will hop back on to his pedestal. Really? That hardly seems fair on the old bird, what with acid rain, car exhaust fumes and the melle of exuberant students who sometimes swing on his limbs. After all, he is a work of art. All right. Replace him with a replica.

Fortunately, one can be created. The original plaster for the moulds used in the casting still exist in the Victoria & Albert Museum. A new Eros would be identical to the old, but internally strengthened. The cast that the sculptor Alfred Gilbert personally supervised could go into a museum. But don't kid yourself: we won't be able to concur on anything as straightforward as that. To certain members of Westminster City Council and English Heritage, Eros is Eros; anything else would be a fake.

To most of the public, this controversy will seem, at best, academic. Few people would be able to tell the difference between the true Eros and the clone. But the passion generated by the debate illustrates the reverence both sides attach to the fabric of the past. It is as though we were dealing with a holy image, not a piece of sculpture conceived as a decorative incident in a busy metropolis. Does it matter?

The answer can only be yes. Every society needs symbols of a shared past. But we have to be clear about what we save and why. This is not easy to decide. An anthropologist, journeying to the strange island of Conservation, would identify two different tribes, each competing for the same territory, each harbouring a streak of hostility towards the other.

One tribe claims descent from a squat, irascible demi-god in pebble-sized spectacles: William Morris.



Use it or lose it: should we meticulously restore our historic buildings to please the conservationists, or do disasters like the Windsor fire give us the chance to rebuild with confidence for a new age?

To Morris, haunted by a Utopian vision of medieval society, a building's appearance mattered less than the record it bore of the creatively fulfilled masons who fashioned it. These craftsmen, living in that prelapsarian age before Britain was corrupted by the Industrial Revolution, had the opportunity for self-expression, or so it was thought; their mistakes enhanced a building because they introduced a degree of variety not possible when using machines. Consequently, Morris believed that ancient stones should not be replaced unless they had reached the end of their life. He also held to the principle that repairs should always differ from the original.

In a recent speech to the Royal Fine Art Commission, Peter Brooke, Secretary of State for National Heritage, paid tribute to this principle, admiring old buildings extended in styles "which truly represent the age in which we live". The problem for the Morris men is that, these days, there is no one style of our day and age. Our era could as well be typified by the bawdy post-Modernism of Terry Farrell as the futurism of Sir Norman Foster. You take your pick.

The great idol of the other tribe is History. To them, the most important thing about an old building is what it shows about the past. They are prepared to reform inconvenient old buildings that are not all of a piece by removing "out of period" excrescences. Perhaps they

descend from Morris's contemporary, Sir Gilbert Scott, the notorious restorer of churches. It was as a result of Scott's plans for a root-and-branch restoration of Tewkesbury Abbey that the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) was founded.

Devotion to history may seem unexceptionable, until the principle is put into practice. Because, alas, we can never know what the past was really like. Often too little evidence exists; guesses may seem right, but we feel they look wrong. The historical school of thought chalked up a spectacular black mark at the Queen's House, Greenwich, restored in 1990. Whatever it looked like in the 17th century, it wasn't that. The memory of this disaster has been partially effaced by triumphs such as Hampton Court, where the newly restored rooms look better than they did before the 1986 fire.

Open warfare broke out between the tribes over Uppark, in Sussex, gutted by fire in 1989. When the National Trust began its painstaking restoration, the SPAB argued that the staircase, rather than being restored as the Georgian original, should differ from its surroundings, and so declare itself a 20th-century insertion. Rather pointless, given that Uppark is not a living building, but a museum. On the other hand, what is the purpose of the trust spending about £20 million to restore it to its exact condition before the disaster? Its

value as a piece of history has already been compromised by the destruction. One cannot help suggesting that the insurance company might have done better to donate the vast sums required for Uppark's replacement towards the purchase of another, intact, building. Then the ruin of Uppark might have been sold as a shell, to be rebuilt by private owners. Its use as a late 20th-century dwelling, constructed within an older shell, would surely have increased its interest to future historians.

The best use of a country house is for someone to live in it. The owner may not be able to care for it as well as the National Trust or English Heritage, but at least the house will continue to reflect the taste of an individual. This may not represent everyone's idea of good taste, but it is, so to speak, real taste — not some historians' false ideal.

Of course, some buildings do cease to fulfil their original function, and any other use would change them beyond recognition. Britain is the only country in the world to possess a body created specifically to look after churches no longer needed for worship. The Redundant Churches Fund is one of the most remarkable repositories of history and culture in Britain.

Even so, far better that churches stay in use. But what hard choices that presents! When an IRA bomb blew out the Victorian stained-glass windows of St Helen's, Bishopsgate, the evangelical vicar, the Rev Dick Lucas, decided that it was time to reorder the building.

In the last century, the Gothic Revival architect J.L. Pearson had excavated the floor of the church (steps going down by the door allowed him to have steps rising up to the altar); he also inserted screens that hid the pulpit from parts of the church. Despite its City location, St Helen's attracts very large congregations.

Mr Lucas needs more room. He wants to shift the screens, add a gallery and, perhaps more controversially, insert a sunken font in the floor for baptisms of total immersion. The architect Quinlan Terry, himself a supporter of the low church, has been employed. Despite the fact that little Victorian work is being destroyed, only moved, both the Victorian Society and the London Division of English Heritage are against it. Surely this is taking conservation too far.

Continuing use is the key to the debate over Windsor Castle. Unlike Hampton Court, it is still a working palace. Sir Jeffrey Wyatville, Georgian architect of the fire-damaged rooms, would have understood this. He created an impressive Tudor-style décor for a hall conceived principally as a setting for the resplendent ceremonies of the Order of the Garter and the dazzling annual Waterloo dinner. Elsewhere, in other work, he was far from committed to Gothic. His view would almost certainly have echoed that of his contemporary, Thomas Hopper: "It is an architect's business to understand all styles, and to be prejudiced in favour of none." The criterion that

ruled his choice was appropriateness.

What has to be decided first is not the style of the replacement work, but the use to which the restored St George's Hall and other rooms will be put. Does the Queen really need another chapel? If not, don't rebuild it as one. Will St George's Hall become principally a tourist attraction? If so, it should be restored to what it was before. If its main function is to serve as a setting for ceremonial, a new architectural framework would be not only logical but essential. For this must be the moment to revise the ceremonial along with the architecture. In this above all else,

the requirements of a late 20th-century monarch will contrast strongly with those of the dizzy, spendthrift George IV.

Unfortunately, today's architects are not practised in producing settings of the sumptuousness and splendour proper to even a modified, toned-down kind of ceremony. The country will have to look long and hard if it is to avoid a design that is either chilly or banal. For the Queen, however, there could be no better way to express her family's new sense of purpose — to show that the monarchy can update itself to meet the challenges of the age — than a confident rebuilding that is not hidebound by precedent.

In search of things lost but not forgotten

For years expensive beds have been advertised on the premise that, since we spend one third of our lives in bed, we might as well be in a comfortable one. How true — and how annoying that a high-quality mattress alone seems to start at £1,700 for a double. Then, about three years ago, an American sociologist looked further and researched the other time parcels of our day.

He concluded that typical Westerners spend something like 18 months of their lives in the bath, ten years eating, five years sitting in cars, seven watching television — that sort of thing. The only shocking statistic, to me, was the fact that an average person spends a full two years of his or her 75-year average lifespan looking for things.

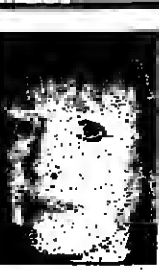
This annoying figure struck home on Monday as I looked for a bottle of shampoo I had deliberately displayed on a prominent eye-catching surface the night before and which had now disappeared. I spent a full 30 minutes raging through the nine lavatory-sized rooms of my cottage looking for it before conceding defeat and going off to the chemist for another.

"I looked high and low," I complained to someone on the telephone later, already beginning to feel that there was some sort of conspiracy against me or that enemies bent on driving me mad had been into the cottage to conceal the shampoo. I even considered a poltergeist.

Unfortunately, I hadn't looked high because that's where the shampoo was eventually found. On top of the cupboard, where, it turned out, a weekend guest had put it after finding it on a table (along with a range of other chemist's products including pills) within the reach of his two year old.

"I'll teach you a lesson. Always look up!" said my husband in schoolteacher tones. The experience left me drained — and even left its mark on my face. Looking in the mirror, I saw that, like the portrait of Dorian Gray, I now looked more savage and unpleasant than before I lost the shampoo.

I often think that if I went to heaven, or had wishes which might be granted, I would ask to find out where various things were that had



**WEEKEND
voice**
**MARY
KILLEN**

disappeared throughout my life. Looking at old photographs I constantly see myself wearing certain clothes that I haven't seen for years, and yet I have no recollection of having given them away. One does begin to feel that Borrower-style fingers have been at work.

When I was about 14, I used to borrow my older sister's best clothes without her permission. To a teenager, looking attractive seems more important than almost anything. My sister put a lock on her bedroom door so that I couldn't penetrate her wardrobe again, but one day she went almost bananas looking for a new miniskirt that she knew I coveted and which had disappeared from the locked room.

I blinked blandly and pretended to have no idea where it was. I had already returned it to her room by the same method I had used to extricate it. I risked my life climbing out of one bedroom window and tottering along a parapet before going in through her unlocked bedroom window.

Little did I know I was to be hoist by my own petard, or to suffer what I used to call "instant karma". In order to be like Sandie Shaw, a schoolfriend and I had walked along our local main street in bare feet wearing our miniskirts. Unbeknown to us we had been photographed by a reporter for the local paper, and the following week my crime was exposed. There I was in the miniskirt. The caption read: "Two young shoppers find a novel way of relieving their feet."

Sometimes I wonder whether things are not often wittily lost, just as workaholics deliberately take on more and more work to put themselves under stress. Why do people go on not putting their keys just inside the door on a hook, when they know that failure to do

so will result in their wasting hours of time per week ranting around looking for them each time they want to leave the house? Key location bleeping devices are widely available — you whistle and the key bleeps back. But owners of these gadgets just lose them as well.

I did solve one mystery about something that went missing. A golden bracelet, which I literally treasured, came with me to stay in a friend's cottage one weekend. So keen was I on the bracelet that, when we went out for a walk, I displayed it on a bare table just inside an open upstairs window.

I was heartbroken to find it gone when I got back. Nothing else had been stolen from the house and there were no "signs of entry". I began mentally to accuse my fellow guests. I searched high and low but never found it.

The explanation was Rhytonique. A year later, at the same cottage, the gardener of the house next door told me that a magpie's nest had come down in a tree. Inside were a range of glittering objects the bird had stolen to decorate her nest. Mine was one of them.

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FILM

BRAM STOKER'S DRACULA (18): Gary Oldman as the Transylvanian legend, preying on Victorian London. Visually audacious, but cold to the touch. Francis Coppola directs. Barbican (071-638 8891). Camden Plaza (071-485 2443). MGM Baker Street (071-935 9772). MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096). Notting Hill Coronet (071-727 0755). Odeons Kensington (0426 914666). Leicester Square (0426 915683). Marble Arch (0426 914501). Screen on the Green (071-226 3520). UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

CHAPLIN (12): A skilled impersonation by Robert Downey Jr. but Richard Attenborough's biographical epic never penetrates far inside the man. Lumiere (071-836 0911). MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096). Odeons Kensington (0426 914666). Mezzanine (0426 915683). UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

DAMAGE (18): MP Jeremy Irons pursues a destructive affair with his own son's fiancée (Juliette Binoche). Riveting version of Josephine Hart's novel, coolly directed by Louis Malle. With Miranda Richardson. Barbican (071-638 8891). Chelsea (071-351 3743/3743). Curzon West End (071-439 4805). Empire (071-497 9999). Gate (071-727 4043). Odeons Kensington (0426 914666). Screen on the Hill (071-435 3366). Screen on Baker Street (071-935 2722).



Emotion: Irons comforts Richardson in *Damage*

THE END OF THE GOLDEN WEATHER (PG): Twelve-year-old befriends a simpaton during one halcyon New Zealand summer. Low classic, unevenly filmed by Ian Mune. MGM Haymarket (071-839 1527). MGM Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148).

A FEW GOOD MEN (15): Cocky naval lawyer (Tom Cruise) defends marines accused of murder. Devishly seductive courtroom drama; director, Rob Reiner. MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096). MGM Oxford Street (071-636 0310). Odeons Kensington (0426 914666). West End (0426 915574). UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

FOLKS! (PG): Family problems drive Tom Selleck almost as crazy as his wife. Bored comedy, with Don Ameche. Director, Ted Kotcheff. Odeons Kensington (0426 914666). Mezzanine (0426 915683).

HONEY, I BLEW UP THE KID (U): Amiable, inoffensive sequel, with Rick Moranis as the accident-prone dad with a 100-foot-tall toy who heads for Las Vegas. Director, Randall Kessler. Camden Parkway (071-267 7034). MGM Oxford Street (071-636 0310). Odeons Kensington (0426 914666). West End (0426 915574). UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

L.627 (15): The Paris police drugs squad's daily routine: stake-outs, violence, paperwork. Vividly filmed by Bertrand Tavernier, though too long for its material. Starring Didier Bezace, Nils Tavernier. Renoir (071-837 8402).

THE PUBLIC EYE (15): Life, times and longings of a tabloid photographer in the Forties. Low. Prolonged. Annoyingly artificial. With Barbara Hershey, writer-director, Howard Franklin. MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636). Plaza (071-497 9999). UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

EVENINGS OUT

PAUL THOMPSON CURATORIAL DIRECTOR, DESIGN MUSEUM



6 First and foremost I want to catch the Jean Nouvel exhibition at the ICA (until next Sun). He designed one of my favourite buildings, the Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris, and I'd be fascinated to see the video of him talking about the relationship of art to cinema. I could happily spend any night of the week at the Electric Cinema on Portobello Road. I'll definitely be seeing the Pedro Almodóvar double-bill of *Labyrinth of Passion* and *What Have I Done To Deserve This?* (next Sun). I first saw his films when my wife was working in Barcelona in the early Eighties during our courtship — we get rather goooey-eyed over them now... I tend to go to opera rather than theatre these days, as the staging is more innovative. I like the imaginative programming at the ENO and I'm looking forward to the double-bill of *Bluebeard's Castle* by Bartók and *The Duel of Tancredi and Clorinda* by Monteverdi (from Mar 17). I'm not much of a foodie, and I really hate fashionable restaurants. I'd rather be taken for a meal at the Athenaeum or else at the Chelsea Arts Club.

RESERVOIR DOGS (18): A jewel robbery goes haywire. Quirky tale of betrayal, loyalty and violence from bright new talent Quentin Tarantino. Stars Harvey Keitel, Tim Roth and Steve Buscemi. Camden Parkway (071-267 7034). MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096). MGM Haymarket (071-839 1527). MGM Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148). Odeons Kensington (0426 914666). UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

SWEET EMMA, DEAR BOBE (18): Isvan Scabo's piercing portrait of a disordered life in post-communist Budapest: his best film in years, strong performance from Johanna Ter Steege. Metro (071-437 0757).

TOUS LES MATINS OU MONDE (12): Wonderful, melancholy portrait of French Baroque musicians Sainte-Colombe (Jean-Pierre Marielle) and his pupil Marin Marais (Gérard and Guillaume Depardieu). Also starring Anne Brochet; director, Alain Corneau. Curzon Mayfair (071-465 8865).

A WINTER'S TALE (12): A Paris hairdresser's quest for true love. Eric Rohmer near his best: elegant, clear-eyed, realistic. A film laced with magic. Stars Charlotte Véry. Minima (071-235 4225). Renoir (071-837 8402).

THEATRE

LONDON
LE CIRQUE IMAGINAIRE: Victoria Chaplin (daughter of Charlie) and Jean Baptiste Thierree return with their troupe of acrobats, clowns and other performers. Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, W6 (081-748 3354). Preview Tues, 7.45pm; opens Wed, 7pm; then every 7.45pm until Mar 6.

CYRANO DE BERGERAC: Robert Lindsay looks right as the nasally challenged hero but the production is too bustling to give enough room to the full poignancy of his fate. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm.

OEATH OF A FAUN: Trained dancer Nicholas Johnson plays Nijinsky, alone in his asylum on the day of Diaghilev's funeral, remembering his lover and destroyer. One-man play, with dance, by David Newell. Orange Tree, Clarence Street, Richmond (081-940 3633). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat Thurs, 2.30pm. Sat, 4pm.

THE DEEP BLUE SEA: Rattigan's play on infatuation gets into high gear. Strong performances by Penelope Wilton and Linus Roache; exemplary production by Karel Rals. Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (071-350 4404). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 4pm.

ENTERTAINING MR SLOANE: Orton's first success, mordantly witty and amoral, with Ben Daniels, Janet Dale, Ian Gelder. Jeremy Sams directs. Greenwich Theatre, Grooms Hill, SE10 (081-858 7755). Previews from Thurs, 7.45pm; opens Feb 15, 7pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm.

THE SHIFF OF THE GORGON: Renzetti's latest bloodbustingly revenge versus forgiveness on a modern Greek island. Dead issues, ify treatment but Judi Dench is powerful. The Pit, Barbican Centre, Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 8891). Fri, 7.15pm; next Sat, 2pm and 6.30pm.

GREASEPAINT: Though titled "Not the Japanese Season" this is the first of three modern Japanese plays, with Frances de la Tour as an actress beset with troubles. A tremendous hit in Tokyo. Lyric, King Street, W6 (081-741 2311). Previews today, 2.30pm and 7.45pm; Mon, 7.45pm; opens Tues, 7pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm.

THE INVISIBLE MAN: Truly amazing magical tricks in this Stratford East transfer: the rather plodding plot said to have been revised. Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (071-836 9877). Previews from today, 7.30pm; opens Feb 16, 7pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed, Sat, 3pm.

IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY: Larks in the hospital common room.

matron outraged; doctors flummoxed. Ray Cooney farce with lots of laughs. Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (071-839 4401). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 5.30pm.

KING LEAR: Solid, respectable performance by Tom Wilkinson in a low-powered staging by Max Stafford-Clark. With Saskia Reeves, Hugh Ross. Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (071-730 1745). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm.

KISS OF THE SPOER WOMAN: Tremendously glossy production of the Kander & Ebb musical. It's the same painter's diptych *The Trinity and The Virgin and Child in Front of a Fire*, lent by the Hermitage, 51 Petersburg. National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, WC2 (071-839 3321). Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 2-6pm, until Mar 28.

THE GREAT AGE OF BRITISH WATERCOLOUR: This important show reveals that between 1750 and 1880 much of the most innovative work was done in watercolour. About 300 works by the most famous British watercolourists, including Turner and Blake, make the point inestimably. Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, W1 (071-439 7438). Daily, 10am-6pm, until April 12.

BARCLAYS YOUNG ARTIST AWARD: In its ninth year the award shortlisted nine artists from post-graduate shows at four London art schools. Chelsea, Goldsmiths, the Slade and the Royal College. Only one of the artists actually paints; most make installations and use photography, video, and found materials. The first prize (£10,000) goes to a two-person team, identical twins Jane and Louise Wilson. Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, W2 (071-402 6075). Daily, 10am-6pm, until Feb 28.

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT GALLERY: The new permanent display at the Victoria and Albert consists of the only complete interior by the American Frank Lloyd Wright anywhere in Europe. Designed for a Pennsylvania department store magnate in 1936 it was dismantled in the Sixties and given to the V&A, where it first went on view in 1974. Victoria & Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, SW7 (071-938 8441). Mon, midday-5.50pm, Tues-Sat, 10am-5.50pm, Sun, 2-5.50pm.

SICKERY: This large show (134 works) gives ample opportunity to see the artist's early Impressionist works and the once-despised work of his old age, frequently based on images from pop culture of the day. Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, W1 (071-439 7438). Daily, 10am-6pm, until next Sun.

SOUL LEWITT: DRAWINGS 1958-1992: Not only the most famous American Minimalist, but inventor of the term Conceptual Art, Lewitt's work combines in himself most of the things traditionalists most distrust. However, his works on paper are very approachable. About 350 are shown here and reveal in general his exquisitely sensitive response to colour and texture in pencil, ink and gouache. Museum of Modern Art, 200 Pembroke Street, Oxford (0865 722733). Tues-Sat, 10am-6pm (Thurs to 9pm), Sun, 2-6pm, until Mar 28.

DECLARATIONS OF WAR: Few people see the Imperial War Museum as a collector and patron of contemporary art. This touring show underlines that role in the museum's activities: everything in it has been not only collected but made since 1980. The artists, who include Gilbert and George, Michael Sandie, Peter Howson, Stephen McKenna and Jock MacIsaac, are seen responding to emergencies in the Falklands, the Gulf and of course Ireland. Unexpectedly distinguished. Kettle's Yard, Castle Street, Cambridge (0223 352124). Tues-Sat, 12.30-5.30pm, Sun, 2-5.30pm, until Mar 28.

CIVIL WAR: The Royal Armouries, England's oldest museum, has mounted its first touring display. King Charles's gilt armour forms the centrepiece of the show which includes more than 60 prize items and has been travelling to towns and cities which played an important part in the bloody events of 1642. Sponsored by The Times, the display is being complemented by the Curium's own assemblage of local exhibits. Corinium Museum, Park Street, Cirencester (0285 555611). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 2-5pm, until Mar 28.

BOUDIN AT TROUVILLE: As well as playing a vital role in

encouraging the teenage Monet to forsake caricature for painting, Boudin was an important precursor of the Impressionists, and a distinguished figure in his own right. The first extensive showing in Britain for many years. Burrell Collection, Pollok Country Park, Glasgow (041-649 7151). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 11am-5pm, until Feb 28.

EXPRESSIONS OF BELIEF: This ambitious travelling exhibition originating in Rotterdam and receiving its only British showing in Liverpool, brings together ceremonial, ritual and personal objects from the various religious backgrounds of Africa, Oceania and Indonesia. The first requirement the show makes is aesthetic response, after which the visitor is invited to explore the whole cultural context. Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street (051-207 0001). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, midday-5pm, until April 18.

THE ARSENAL STADIUM MYSTERY (Connoisseur, PG): Deliciously breezy Thirties murder mystery, implicitly directed by Thorold Dickinson, with Leslie Banks as the Inspector on the case, and members of the 1939 Arsenal football team.

PETE KELLY'S BLUES (Tartan Video, PG): Jazz, gangsters and minks in the Twenties plus two songs from Ella Fitzgerald and Peggy Lee. Despite all this, it's a sombre affair, coloured by Jack Webb's dour cinematic perspective. Shot in CinemaScope, letter-boxed for video. 1955.

THE LONG DAY CLOS (Curzon Video, PG): Terence Davies's powerful evocation of childhood's lost paradise in Liverpool, with Leigh McCormack as Bud, Marjorie Yates, and a wonderful array of local faces in the cast.

A STRANGE PLACE TO MEET (Artificial Eye, 15): Catherine Deneuve and Gérard Philipeau as two strangers, desperate for love, who meet on a motorway lay-by. Claustrophobic first feature by François Dupeyron. 1988.

BOOKINGS
SCOTTISH OPERA: Bellini's *bel canto* masterpiece *Norma* receives a new production by Scottish Opera. The company's first staging of the work is directed by Ian Judge, with designs by John Gunter. Jane Eaglen takes the leading part, considered to be one of the most challenging of soprano roles. John Mauceri conducts. Theatre Royal, Glasgow (041-332 9000). Apr 24, 27, May 1, 6.

PLAYLAND: The latest play by South African writer Athol Fugard receives its British premiere at the Donmar Warehouse, featuring the original cast from the Market Theatre, Johannesburg. The meeting of a war veteran (Sean Taylor) and a nightwatchman (John Kani) unleashes feelings of remorse, hostility and recognition. Donmar Warehouse, London, WC2 (071-867 1150). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. Opens Mar 2, previews from Feb 25.

VAN HALEN: With the imminent release of a new live album, *Right Here Right Now*, the American heavy metal giants return to these shores after an absence of nine years. These are the first dates with new vocalist Sammy Hagar. Birmingham, NEC (021-780 4133). Apr 25, Sheffield, Arena (0742 565500). Apr 27.

LONDON PHILHARMONIC: The many-times-Brunnhilde singer Hildegard Behrens performs the closing scene from Wagner's *Tristan and Isolde* in a programme which contrasts it with the final and equally tragic scene of Salome. The evening begins with Schubert's song *Death and the Maiden*. Festival Hall, South Bank, London, SE1 (071-928 8800). Mar 30.

SUZANNE VEGA: Following the success of her latest album *99.9*, more up-tempo than her previous material, the vocalist announces an April tour. Poole, Arts Centre (0202 685222). 1. Cambridge, Com Exchange (0223 357851). 2. Sheffield, City Hall (0742 722885). 4. London, Hammersmith Apollo (081-748 4081). 5. Corby, Festival Hall (0536 402233). 6. Wolverhampton, Civic Hall (0902 312030). 8. Bradford, St George's Hall (0274 752000). 9. York, Barbican (0904 656688). 11. Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, City Hall (091-261 2606). 13. Edinburgh, Usher Hall (031-228 8616). 14. Manchester, Apollo (061-274 3775). 15. Cardiff, St David's Hall (0222 371236). 16. Cornwall, Coliseum, Fair (0726 814004). 17. Croydon, Parlophone Hall (081-681 0821). 18.

FILMS: Geoff Brown; Jeremy Kingston; Classical Music; Rock and Opera; Ian Brunkell; Rock and Jazz; Stephanie Osborne; Dances; Debra Crane; Exhibitions; John Russell; Taylor; New Videos; Geoff Brown; Bookings; Karl Knight



Bob Dylan: appreciated afresh after his impressive new acoustic album (see Music)

Fr, Sat, 8pm, mat Sat (Feb 27), 2.30pm.

WYTHENSHAW: Roger Haines returns to the Forum to direct the northern premiere of Sandheim's sharp, revisionist fairy-tale musical, *Into the Woods*. Its motto: "Be careful of what you wish for in case you get it." Forum, Civic Centre (061-236 7110). Preview today, 8pm; opens Tues, 7.30pm; then Tues-Thurs, 7.30pm; Fri, Sat, 8pm; mats Wed (Feb 17) and Sat (Feb 27), 3pm.

TRAVELS WITH MY AUNT: William Gaunt, John Wells, Richard Kane, Christopher Gee play all 26 parts in Giles Havergal's marvellous adaptation of Graham Greene's novel. Myndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-867 1116). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm.

TRELAWAY OF THE 'WELLS': The *Les Misérables* partnership of John Caird and John Napier renewed to stage Finero's comedy. Second revival this season. With Robin Bailey, Helen McCrory, Michael Bryant. Myndham's (overleaf), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Previews from Fri, 7.15pm; opens Feb 18, 7pm; then in rep with *An Inspector Calls*.

THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA: David Thacker's winning revival, Thirties style, both comic and romantic, delightfully acted — not least by a reprobatic muck. Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 8891). Wed, Thurs, 7.15pm, mat Thurs, 2pm.

REGIONAL
BIRMINGHAM: Gillian Hanna plays the title role in *Big Maggie*, John B. Keane's marvellous creation of a rural Irish matriarch. Repertory Theatre, Centenary Square (021-236 4455). Preview today, 7.30pm; opens Mon, 7.30pm; mat Thurs (Feb 18), 2.30pm; Sat (Feb 20), 3pm.

EDINBURGH: Tom Courtenay plays the cultured drunk in Yereofee's grimly funny *Moscow Stations*, adapted from his cult novel. Traverse, Cambridge Street (031-228 1404). Preview Fri, 8pm; opens Sat (Feb 13), 8pm; mats Tues-Sat, 8pm; mat Sun, 4pm.

MOLD: Janet Suzman directs Timothy West and Sheila Allen in Miller's humane and moving *Death of a Salesman*. Theatre Chryd, Civic Centre (0352 755114). Previews from Fri, 7.30pm; opens Feb 16, 7.30pm; Mon-Fri, 7.30pm; mats Tues-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sun, 4pm.

NOTTINGHAM: Kenneth Haigh as the tramp carrying favour with Michael Praed and Jonathan Linnit in Pinter's fascinating play, *The Caretaker*. Playhouse, East Circus Street (0602 419419). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat (Feb 13), 2.30pm.

SHEFFIELD: Simon Williams, Nicky Hanson and Alison Fiske head a strong cast in Michael Frayn's excellent comedy of an Oxford reunion. Crucible, Norfolk Street (0742 769922). Preview Thurs, 7.30pm; opens Fri, 7.30pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm.

SOUTHAMPTON: Spring season opens with *The Little Foxes*. Lillian Hellman's powerful drama of greed and deceit in a Southern family. Nutfield University Road, (0703 671771). Previews tonight, 8pm. Mon, 7.30pm; opens Tues, 7.30pm; then Mon-Thurs, 7.30pm.

NEW LONDON CONSORT: Philip Pickett and his always stimulating period ensemble continue their revelatory work on Monteverdi with performances of *Combattimento di Tancredi e Clorinda*, *Il Ballo delle Ingrate*

and *Tirsi e Clori*. Jane Ginglell is the director/choreographer. Timepiece provide the dancing, while the impressive vocal line-up includes Catherine Bott and John Mark Ansley. Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, SE1 (071-928 8800). Fri, 7.45pm.

LONDON PHILHARMONIC: With Klaus Tennstedt indisposed, the LPO's performance (in German) of Haydn's *The Creation* is now in the capable, but rather different, hands of Roger Norrington. Soloists are Felicity Lott, Anthony Rolfe Johnson and David Wilson-Johnson. Festival Hall (as before), Tues, 7.30pm.

THE BARBER OF SEVILLE: Stephen Unwin's cheery production of Rossini's comic masterpiece is revived at the Royal Opera with Bruce Ford as Almaviva, Thomas Hampson, making his long-awaited Covent Garden debut as Figaro, Jennifer Larmore as Rosina, and Gabriel Bacquier, as Doctor Bartolo. Royal Opera House, London, WC2 (071-240 1066). Mon, 7.30pm.

SPRING LOADED: The festival is well under way now with the Shobana Jesinghani Dance Company giving another London airing to *Making of Maps*. Jesinghani's most innovative work to date which sees her extending the parameters of South Asian dance. On Friday, Morisonehouse presents its new production, *Andalucia*, a collaboration with the Spanish installation artist Rosa Sanchez which was inspired by *One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. The Place Theatre, 17 Duke's Road, London, WC1 (071-387 0031). Shobana Jesinghani tonight, 8pm. *Metamorphosis*, Fri, next Sat, 8pm.

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL Ballet: The company showcases two of David Bintley's most popular full-length ballets this week: *His Choice*, the delightful tale of family life in 19th-century Lancashire based on the Harold Brightmore play; and *The Snow Queen*, inspired by the Hans Christian Andersen tale of the evil queen seeking an innocent child to warm her icy kingdom. Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, London, EC1 (071-278 8916). Hobson's Choice today, 2.30pm, 7.30pm; *The Snow Queen*, Tues-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed, next Sat, 2.30pm.

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CLASSICAL
PHILHARMONIA: Pierre Boulez continues his welcome run of British concerts with an 85th anniversary tribute to Elliott Carter, America's greatest living composer, and to the late Olivier Messiaen. The Philharmonia is joined by the Ensemble InterContemporain and a fine team of soloists for a programme that includes Messiaen's *Un voyage et des oiseaux* and *Poèmes pour mi* (with soprano Maria Ewing), Carter's *Three Occasions* and his 1988 Oboe Concerto (with Lucio Hardy), and Boulez's own *Omnéa*. Festival Hall, London, SE1 (071-928 8800), tomorrow, 6.30pm. Oxford, Playhouse (0865 798600), Tues, Wed, 7.45pm. Coventry, University of Warwick Arts Centre (0203 524524), Fri, 7.30pm.

SULTANS OF PING PONG: This Irish band are poised to set the live circuit alight with their wickedly funny songs on the perils of disco ("Where's Me Jumper") and the joys of football ("Give Him A Ball & A Yard Of Grass"). Exeter, University (0392 263528), Tues, 7.30pm. Brighton, East Wing, Brighton Centre (0273 203131), Wed, 7.30pm. Liverpool, Liverpool University (0995 239125), Thurs, 8pm. Cinderford, Deans Centre (0594 823814), Fri, 8pm.

BELLY: Tanya Donelly and her haunting indie band are on something of a roll at the moment with their single "Feed the Tree" making the Top 40 and an impressive debut album. Star Manchester, University (061-275 2930), Wed, 7.30pm. Knezy House, Liverpool (051-708 5016), Thurs, 8.30pm. Leeds, Irish Centre (0532 480887), Fri, 8pm.

OTIS GRAND AND THE BIG BLUES BAND: The award-winning singer and guitarist offers a lively evening of R & B. T&C2, London, NS (071-700 5716), Thurs, 8.30pm.

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OTIS GRAND AND THE BIG BLUES BAND: The award-winning singer and guitarist offers a lively evening of R & B. T&C2, London, NS (071-700 5716), Thurs, 8.30pm.

JEAN NOUVEL: Springing to fame in the early Eighties with the unveiling of his Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris, Nouvel has gone from strength to strength with such wildly eclectic buildings in

progress as Lyon Opera House and Tours Conference Centre. This show has been designed by Nouvel himself. Final week ICA, The Mall, SW1 (071-930 3647). Mon-Sat, midday-10pm, Sun, midday-3pm, until next Sun.

BRIEF ENCOUNTERS — ROBERT CAMPIN: The idea of the National Gallery's series of exhibitions under the title "Brief Encounters" is that two related paintings should be juxtaposed with various background material to compare and contrast. This fourth show puts the gallery's own *Virgin and Child in Interior* by the early 15th-century Netherlandish master Robert Campin with the same painter's diptych *The Trinity and The Virgin and Child in Front of a Fire*, lent by the Hermitage, 51 Petersburg. National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, WC2 (071-839 3321). Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 2-6pm, until Mar 28.

THE GREAT AGE OF BRITISH WATERCOLOUR: This important show reveals that between 1750 and 1880 much of the most innovative work was done in watercolour. About

Prudence chews over a passport to greener pastures

FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HENRY

This new cow of ours, currently called Prudence, may well have to change her name if she is to carry on like this. Prudence is a solid, sensible name. At the moment she is more of a Cleopatra. If I describe the morning scene in the cow-shed, you will understand why.

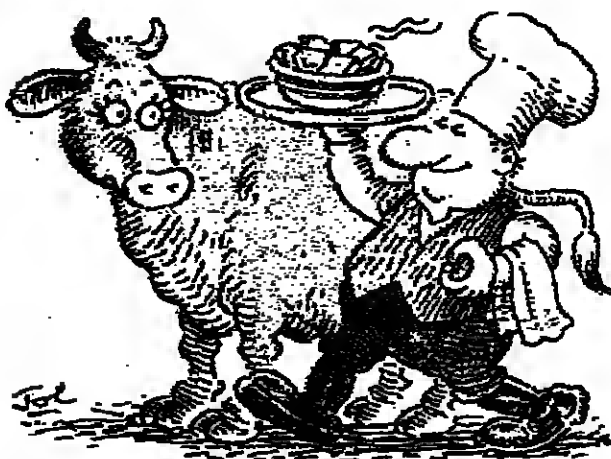
Despite all my efforts, I have so far failed to get this cow to eat mangelwurzel. I know that once she has tasted their sweetness and crunched the crisp flesh between her teeth, she will be hooked. Since last week, I have had many calls from owners of cows suggesting I sprinkle them with oats, slice them, even marinate them in treacle. This has now turned what is normally a fairly routine feeding exercise into haute cuisine, as I chop and dice the mangels before stirring them deep into the feed-bucket, vainly hoping the cow will not notice. But it is all a waste of time. She has a

tongue as precise as a surgeon's scalpel and will lick every last oat from her manger, leaving the sad lumps of mangel untouched.

I thought at first that she might be objecting to eating greens on principle. She may have heard of the vegetarian movement, which shuns the eating of meat. Why, she might argue, should the meat not shun the eating of vegetables? But that theory was soon disproved when I offered her some stalks of leafy green kale, which she devoured in a frenzy. Of course, she can live a perfectly happy and healthy life without ever letting a mangel past her molars, but when I see the other cows getting such joy from grinding the succulent roots twice daily



between their teeth, I feel sorry she is missing out. So every morning I tie her to the hayrack and we go through a little routine. I ought to explain that although I bought her with two calves, it soon became clear that her massive udder was more than capable of feeding three, so last week I bought another calf for her to suckle. This, I admit, flies in the face of nature, and Prudence knows it. No sooner does the little stranger latch on to the rubbery teat than foster-mother's back leg gives it a quick cuff behind the ear which sends it flying across the shed. Bravely, it comes back for more, and I help it by distracting Prudence, who, if she has something else on her mind, will happily let any numbers of



calves hang on her udder. And so I tickle her under the chin, and chat. Then I had an idea. During one of these tactile gossiping sessions, I thought I might wait until she opened her jaws for a bite of hay,

and quickly slip a slice of mangel into her mouth. I teased her with kale, which I knew she liked. Then I popped in the mangel. The jaws closed and crunched it. She gulped and it was gone. So every morning

I stand there feeding her succulent morsels, like a slave feeding peeled grapes to Cleopatra, or, given the state of her udders, Mae West.

After two days I tried mixing the mangels with her oats, but within five minutes she had sorted out the mangel, eaten the oats and left the mangels. I shall play the slave-boy for two more days and then she can lump it.

But I shall miss our morning chats. This morning, for example, I told her about a fascinating document I had been sent tantalisingly titled "CAP Reform in the Beef Sector". It requires that each beef animal should have a personal passport. It is issued by the government, must travel with the animal and be produced on demand. I told her I thought it remarkable that, just as Europe is managing, by and large, to dispense with human beings having to show passports at frontiers, the Ministry of Agricul-

ture had managed to invent a scheme which requires cows to show theirs if they set as much as one hoof off the farm. But Prudence heard none of this. She had a faraway look in her eye and, with the new-found freedom her passport would give her, she seemed to dream of balmy days on sun-drenched golden sands with tanned beach-bullocks tempting her with Martini cocktails, and not damned mangelwurzel.

But her mood changed. A worried look came into her eye. "Hey," she thought, "I am no beef animal. I am not merely mobile steak on four legs. If the price of getting my passport is the certainty of the butcher's hook, I will have none of it." I calmed her down, and told her she had many calf-rearing years ahead of her. Sensing her vulnerability, I slid a chunk of mangel into her mouth. She spat it out viciously. This girl has spirit.



Taking the reins: Anne McCaig and her co-driver Reg Lovell set off in the cart behind Bonnie and Clyde. "Donkeys have sounder road sense than horses," she says

Enjoyable donkey-work

Sure of foot and cheap to keep, donkeys are back in harness for farm work and recreation, Jessica Gorst-Williams reports

We saw two kingfishers and a fox. Just standing there as we passed. We didn't seem to alarm anything. When you walk a dog everything whooshes and takes flight. With a donkey they accept you. There was hoarfrost everywhere. I could see the donkey's breath on the air and the only sound was of his little shoes clattering along." Gilbert White in Selborne, 1784? No, Anne McCaig, donkey-driving champion, speaking in Kent in 1993.

Donkeys used to be part of everyday life. Their ability to negotiate steep, cobbled lanes and narrow alleys made them ideal draught animals for costermongers, dairy-men, coal merchants, chimney sweeps, refuse and dung collectors. They were also used by farmers. Then lorries and tractors relegated them to the seaside, and as companions to family hunters. Their numbers dwindled and it was only the efforts of The Donkey Breeds Society, founded in 1967 as The Donkey Show Society, that stopped them becoming a rarity in Britain.

Now, some people are using them again for ploughing and harrowing, as smallholder Jill Gill does in Okehampton, Devon, with her donkeys Katie and Tiffany. "Machinery just didn't work for us," she says. With a plough borrowed from a local agricultural museum, and some simple equipment, it takes her two days to work a half-acre field.

Donkey driving is having a revival, too. Last November, drivers and their donkeys took part in the Lord Mayor's Show in London for the first time. They compete at the Hickstead showground in Sussex.

Gradually, people are realising that donkeys are not a poor man's horse, and that they have advantages over their flightier cousins. "Donkeys have sounder road sense," Ms McCaig says. "A whiff of trouble and they'll stop, whereas a horse might flip you over, cart and all, and make a dash for it."

"Donkeys are suitable, too, for people who are disabled and use a wheelchair—they can have a ramp to get into the cart and the chair can be clamped into position."

Dr Elisabeth Svendsen of The Donkey Sanctuary at Sidmouth, Devon, has 3,890 donkeys, many of them rescued from mistreatment, and about 140 staff. She never turns a donkey away, and people are welcome to visit, free of charge, all year. Within the sanctu-



Joy of the open road: Kris Lovell and donkey Zahra (left) join Anne McCaig and Bonnie and Clyde

ary is the Slade Centre, to which handicapped children are brought daily. For those in wheelchairs there are specially adapted carts. "Donkeys give disabled people such a lot of pleasure. Autistic children get an immense amount of joy," Dr Svendsen says.

Donkeys are cheaper to keep and drive than a horse. Costs include the carriage, which could be just a box on wheels, or one with metal

shafts at about £400; a set of single harnesses at £200; and the donkey itself, perhaps £200.

Having started with the basics, the details can become almost an obsession. You begin to hanker after the perfect vehicle. The old-fashioned carriage wheels, for instance. They are not easy to come by in Kent, where the size of the hardwood spokes for donkey-cart wheels match too temptingly the

vulnerable spars of 36-rung cherry ladders. So you find yourself at one of John Mauger's carriage sales at Thimbleby and Shorland in Reading, Berkshire: an Aladdin's cave of fur-lined driving aprons, period carriage lamps, coachman's buttons for liveries and Victorian picnic baskets.

Care is needed in driving. When our donkey, Big Ears (who once spent six months with a leg in a

splint after a contretemps with a cart), and I are poised to make a swift right turn into a fast-moving line of traffic, a note of caution creeps in. "It would be foolhardy to go on the roads without being very competent in the field with your donkey, or without having previously taken the donkey in hand along the road," says Joy Claxton, a donkey driving instructor.

Lessons are essential. You have less control over an animal from a cart than when riding on its back. Although donkeys should not be driven before they are four years old, it is between six and 12 months that they are best able to learn the crucial commands: stop, walk on, trot, back. "They must also be able to reverse over a level crossing," Ms McCaig says.

Big Ears is decidedly long in the tooth and deeply entrenched in old habit patterns. And there's a crossing near here. So, although paradise can be gained in a donkey cart, and the road at the end of our drive may be one that leads to trophies (as it has done for Ms McCaig), driving along it is not for us.

"Donkeys, being suspicious creatures, tend to go round unfamiliar things," Ms Claxton reminded me. "Manhole covers, puddles and changes in colour in the road can be a source of danger."

On a day when the entire landscape had turned white overnight with snow, Big Ears sized up a hole in the fence which exactly matched his bulk, with an inch or two to spare, and went through it.

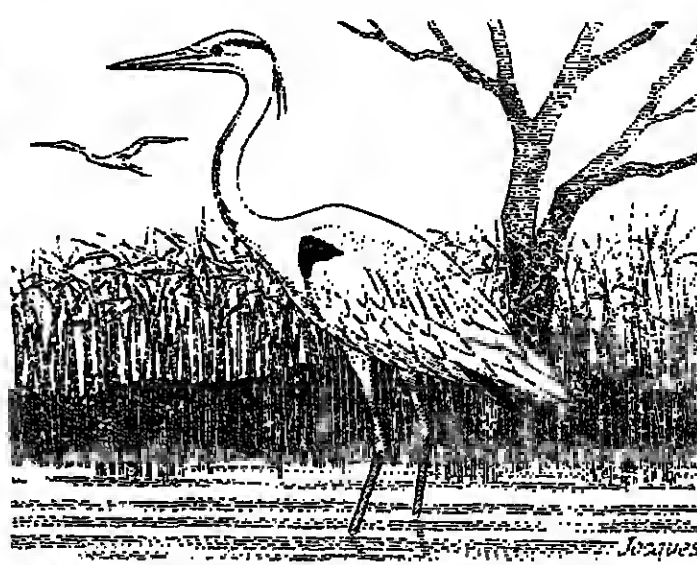
After tracking him down, I had to bring him back. He wouldn't walk but he did allow me to tow him—until, that is, the local bus slithered round the corner in the opposite direction. Then he realised that he could dig his hoofs in, even on ice, which he did for 20 minutes, blocking the road. No one minded: they just waited... like the two kingfishers and the fox.

For a list of qualified donkey-driving instructors, write to Mrs Jennifer Dillon, 27 Dugard Place, Bedford, Warwick CV35 8DX, enclosing a s.a.e. For a course on working a donkey, write to Jill Gill, East Cleeve, Sourton, Okehampton, Devon, EX20 4JB, with s.a.e.

Donkey Sanctuary: Dr Elisabeth Svendsen, Sidmouth, Devon EX10 0NU (0395 578222). Carriage sales: Thimbleby and Shorland, 31 Great Knollys Street, Reading, Berkshire RG1 7HU (0734 508611).

Feather report

Long-legged loners



Solitary vigil: herons hunt for food in isolated, undisturbed spots

In mid-February, if the weather is not too harsh, herons begin to return to their bulky nests in the tree-tops. A heronry is rather like a giant's rookery—yet the nests can easily be overlooked if they are in the middle of a dense copse, or if they are built in the high boughs of tall pines.

The males come back to the heronry first. They have a slow, heavy wing-beat when they are plodding across the skies in search of quiet river banks and ponds, but now they glide the last few yards into the trees. They stand on the old nests, or among the branches if they are first-time nesters; they turn the old nest-material over, or tug at the twigs around them, stretching out their long necks and using their dagger-like yellow bills.

Over the next few weeks, the females will come sailing in. When one approaches a male, there is an extraordinary greeting ceremony. The male sets up a wild, harsh honking, and the female answers with a vibrant cry. The male stretches himself to his full height, and points his straightened neck and his beak vertically at the sky. He is a striking sight with his blue-grey back and his long black crest hanging down the back of his head—quite unlike the hunched-up bird that one sees waiting beside a pool for a fish. Then both birds clatter their beaks at each other. Slowly, with frequent repetitions of this treetop ceremony, the bond becomes established.

At a later stage, before actual mating, the male will offer sticks to the female, and nest-building or repairs will fill much of their days. Around this time, too, the herons often soar and glide with tilting wings in the air above the trees. By March, each pair will have four or five large, light blue eggs in their nest, and the incubating bird will be almost hidden behind its ramparts.

Heronries may contain large numbers of birds, or have only two or three nests in them. But by now even the smallest heronry is a noisy place, with greeting cries, angry quarrelling outbursts, and other snoring and retching sounds coming from the breeding birds. Sometimes you can see the herons powdering themselves. They have one large and two smaller patches of "powder-down" on their underparts—very fine, friable feathers

that continually turn to dust at the tip. The herons dip their beaks into this dust and rub it over their bodies. It cleans the feathers and helps to waterproof them.

By mid-May, when many other species are just beginning to nest, the young herons will be reaching full-size and preparing to fend for themselves. Why does the heron nest so early? It is thought that the herons' breeding season is connected with the speed and intensity with which herons have to feed their large young. If the eggs hatch in March or early April, their parents are likely to find the marshes and lakes free of ice, and fish, frogs and voles already plentiful. But if they left their breeding much later, they would find the waterside vegetation growing up rapidly, and hunting would be a distinctly longer and more difficult job.

As their prey would be less visible. Of course, there could still be hard weather to come in February, and that would delay everything. Survival is the first demand on a bird, and herons do not find it easy when the lakes and pools are frozen. Some go down to the sea, some risk a visit at dawn to city rivers; but there is usually a high death-rate from starvation in a bad winter. Even so, many birds always get through it, and the heronry returns to life, albeit in somewhat depleted strength.

The population will probably never get much larger, however mild our winters. Herons need undisturbed solitude for catching fish, and they space themselves out across the countryside in the comparatively small number of places where they can find it.

So herons will not swarm on the river banks like Canada geese. But on a day out in the countryside there is always a good chance of seeing one of these powerful wanderers—in the spring sunshine, foraging for its nestlings by a riverside miles from the heronry, or on a bleak winter's day beating through the sky on its solitary way from reed-bed to reservoir.

DERWENT MAY

What's about: Birders—listen for chaffinches singing all over the country. Twitchees—night heron, Ichen Valley Country Park, Southampton; immature Ross's gull, Inverness, Scotland. Details on Birdline, 0898 700222.

Cost of a donkey's year

2 bales of straw per week (for bedding) at 50p each.....	£52.00
1 bale of hay for 25 weeks at £1.30 each.....	£32.50
Subscription to Donkey Breeds Society, which will cover public liability insurance.....	£15.00
Farrier every 2 months, £15 per trim.....	£90.00
Vaccinations (tetanus and equine flu).....	£10.00
Worming every 2 months, £5 each time.....	£30.00
Modest exercise cart, £200, up to show vehicle, £2,000, or possibly more.....	£200.00 (plus)
Harnesses.....	£200.00
Head collar (nylon).....	£5.00
Rope.....	£2.00
Accessories bought at auction: hot water bottle £5, up to brass footwarmer £200.....	£5.00 (plus)

Grooming: dandy brush £4, body brush £4, hoof pick £1.50, plastic box with handle for keeping them in £1.50.....	£11.00
Driving gloves.....	£15.00
Driving whip, fibreglass £25, up to holly driving whip £80.....	£25.00 (plus)
Driving apron in melton cloth.....	£20.00
Peppermints (not essential, but they love them) at 14p per packet.....	£7.28
Carrots (not essential, but they should always be sliced lengthwise).....	£12.00
Maintenance of pasture and fencing.....	£40.00
Veterinary fees.....	from nought upwards
TOTAL.....	£770.78

WHEN WAS THE
LAST TIME YOU SAW
A RARE BIRD
IN YOUR HIGH ST?

BIRDWATCH

NOW AVAILABLE IN NEWSAGENTS

Mayfair menus from the farm

Ivo Tennant meets a Devon farming couple who found a ready market for high-quality recipe dishes

The supermarket was not always the shoppers' mecca. In the days of traditional farming, village shops and rural communities were supplied with produce untainted by growth promoters or artificial additives. On a small family farm in Devon such methods are being resurrected, and in a unique way.

On their 50 acres near Exeter, Peter and Henrietta Greig rear their own animals for their own miniature version of a Marks & Spencer food hall on the farm. They have taken on a Mayfair-trained chef to create stuffings, pâtés and recipes for a range of products sold to individuals who want no truck with preservatives or polyphosphates.

It all began five years ago, when they started to devise their own stuffings, marinades and pâtés. Turkey, be it stuffed with apricots, hazelnuts and herbs, or stir-fry, is in demand. There are sausages made from pork, apples, herbs, rusk and water; chicken stir-fry with tarragon and ginger or stuffed with pesto and brown breadcrumbs; venison steaks and lamb with crushed coriander seeds. There are also eggs — free-range, of course — and good old dog food at 50p a pound. In a brine tub in the cutting room, ham and bacon is wet cured in an old-fashioned mix of spices, sugar and salt. Labels carry cooking instructions.

Beef, lamb, chicken, venison, duck, pork and geese can be purchased whole or by the portion. Mr Greig has decided not to supply restaurants, eschewing greater rewards, since meat would have to be bought in from elsewhere. His sheep and cattle are fed on grass, and most fertilisers are banned at Pipers Farm. So, too, are polyphosphates, widely used for water retention in meat processing. So what drives the Greigs, other than an appreciation of decent, preservative-free food? There is, after all, considerably more money to be made from packing chickens into factory-style broiler houses, feeding them a cocktail including growth promoters and antibiotics to achieve a weight of 4lb at 40 days, and then sending them off to the kind of slaughterhouse where water slops around on the ground and stress hangs in the air.

"We do love good food, but I also have a strong belief in the rural community," Mr Greig says. "Family farms are the fabric of this, and modern retailing is not based on traditional farming. That has happened in Kent, where small family farms have been wiped out."



Devon food mountain: Peter and Henrietta Greig in their farmhouse kitchen with Mayfair-trained chef Bob Githam, and some of the produce they now sell

the Park Lane Hotel. He was given scope to devise his own stuffings, marinades and pâtés.

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community," Mr Greig says. "Family farms are the fabric of this, and modern retailing is not based on traditional farming. That has happened in Kent, where small family farms have been wiped out."

"Where I agree with my father is in the consistency of food — except that broiler chickens taste consistently ordinary. Our chickens cost more than his, but they are better value for money since the extra water might cause a 20 per cent weight loss during cooking."

Mr Greig claims that his pricing is comparable to supermarkets if a 10 per cent delivery charge to London is included, but in terms of value for money his food is cheaper. Just as the weight is not artificially increased through water, so all fat is trimmed. "A lot of people have become vegetarian because they

dislike the taste of meat," he says. "Reverting to traditional methods should change that."

Stuffed shoulder of lamb
(serves 6)
3lb boned shoulder of lamb
Stuffing
8oz dried apricots
2oz hazelnuts
2oz drained canned peaches
1sp cumin
1/2oz fresh mint
1/2oz salt
good twist black pepper
Gravy
fresh chopped or dried oregano
1/2lb redcurrant jelly
1/2 glass red wine
1/2 beef stock cube
black pepper

Combine stuffing ingredients in a food processor. Place the stuffing inside the boned shoulder of lamb, roll up, and tie or pin to secure. Place lamb in pre-heated oven, 220C/425F, gas mark 7, and cook for 20 minutes a pound plus 20 minutes. Allow an extra five minutes a pound to have the meat well done.

Remove from oven and allow to rest at room temperature for 15 minutes before carving.

To make gravy: to the pan juices add a generous pinch of oregano, the redcurrant jelly, red wine, stock cube dissolved in water from cooked vegetables, and black pepper. Bring to the boil and allow to simmer for a few minutes before serving separately.

● Pipers Farm, Cullompton, Devon (0392 881380)

For the love of a bargain

Great February value for drinkers and romantics

Bad weather and the last few festive bills always combine to make February a month most of us would prefer to forget. Traditionally too, February and August are the worst months in the wine merchants' year. So it's a relief to see the more enterprising wine outlets fighting February with some great new wines at low prices.

Astonishingly good value this month are two new arrivals from Bulgaria snaffled up by Tesco, ahead of its arch rival Sainsbury's, proving that there is life in the £1.99 wine bottle yet. What separates this splendid Bulgarian Country Wine white and red from the other Bulgars on the block is their extra dollop of quality and value for the price. The pair are among the first Bulgarian wines on sale here produced by independent wineries who have broken away from Vinimpex, the state wine firm.

The white, Medium Dry Ugni Blanc and Muskar from Vincim Burgas on the Black Sea coast, may be too sweet for some, but I enjoyed its light, clean, grapey-rainy style. The red, a Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon from the Menada Vinprom Stara Zagora winery in the middle of the country, offers lots of pleasant, earthy, chunky creosote-scented fruit. This year Bulgarian bargain hunters need to look out for the words "UK importer Domaine Boyar" on the label, indicating the wine comes from an independent Bulgarian winery and thus offers extra value.

Another label indicator of good drinking this year is the words Hugh Ryan Wines, or HRW, Saint Hugh, as this energetic 31-year-old wine maker should be called, led a team of 12 Australian, or Australian-trained, wine makers last year into France, Hungary and Moldova (the new ex-Soviet state tucked in between Romania and the Ukraine). Mr Ryan can have seen few more primitive wine

BEST BUYS

- Bulgarian Country Wine: White Burgas Ugni Blanc and Muskar, Red Stara Zagora Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, Tesco £1.99.
- 1992 Gyöngyös Estate Sauvignon and Chardonnay Thresher and Gateway, £2.29.
- Ginstet Claret £2.29, 1991 Canterbury California Chardonnay £3.99 both from Majestic Wine Warehouses.
- Killawarra Rost Davisons, £4.79.
- Paul d'Herville Champagne £8.56 if you buy seven, from The Victoria Wine Company.
- 1991 St Amour, Domain de la Pirolette, Georges Duboucq Bottoms Up and Wine Rack, £6.99 down to £5.99.

making conditions before than those of Moldova, but this has not stopped him from making an impressively light, delicate, grassy '92 Moldovan Sauvignon, and a spritzy, appley '92 Chardonnay. Several outlets are likely to stock this duo for £2.99 in April — I shall let you know.

In the meantime HRW drinkers should seek out the latest '92 vintages from the Gyöngyös Estate in Hungary. The flowery, herbaceous '92 Sauvignon and soft, waxy '92 Chardonnay are not, due to drought in Hungary last year, quite as good as the '91s. But at £3.29 from Thresher and Sainsbury's, it would be churlish to quibble.

Majestic Wine Warehouses has some good £1-off deals this month, appropriately entitled "Better Than Duty Free". Ginstet claret, with its ripe, simple, attractive herbaceous fruit, is a steal here at £2.29. So too is the delicious, buttery, oaky fruit of the '91 Canterbury California Chardonnay, at just £3.99.

If romantic notions are in mind, think pink. Davisons is selling the excellent, strawberry-scented Killawarra rose for £4.79 this month, down from £4.99.

Champagne never goes amiss on Valentine's day, and The Victoria Wine Company is running a "seven bottles for the price of six" offer on its delicious Paul d'Herville house bubbly, which brings it down to just £8.56 a bottle instead of its normal £9.99 price tag. Torres 1992 San Valentin, with its sweet, spritzy, scented style, complete with a white plastic cherub dangling from its capsule, may also be the sort of thing lovers are looking for this month (Selfridges, London W1, £4.49).

Personally, I would rather have a glass or two of the glorious '91 St Amour, Domaine de la Pirolette from Georges Duboucq, whose juicy, cherry and blackcurrant fruit has helpfully been reduced for one week only (from today until Feb 14) from £6.99 to £5.99 (Bottoms Up and Wine Rack). Lovers take note.

JANE MACQUITY

Robin Young's Restaurant Watch is on page 6

Too much sage and rue the day

THE price of fresh herbs in supermarkets is high, normally about 60p for a small 15g packet. If you are cooking for two, the quantity is about right, but if your table is going to be crowded, you need several packets for most dishes.

Unless you grow your own herbs, the only alternative is those small pots of living herbs you keep on the kitchen windowsill. They work quite well; you simply snip away as you use them. The cost varies from about £1.85 to £2.50 and the instructions on the pot suggest you then throw your herb away. "Cannot be grown on" is the message.

In most cases this is rubbish. The reason the shops put the label on the little plastic containers is simple: if they suggest you can replant or grow on and the exercise fails — if you drown the thing with water or sick it out in the snow — you might well go back to your supermarket and complain.

It is simpler for them to sell the little plants as a one-off, non-reusable purchase. If you can find bushy little potted herbs in your garden centre, they usually cost about £1.25. They are meant for planting out, but can be used in the same way as the supermarket window-sill decorations.

Christine Forecast, who grows 300 herb varieties commercially in her Norfolk gardens, says that the success rate with growing on the supermarket pots can be quite high. Just consult your gardening manual for how to propagate the little herb.

Of course, a second reason for the supermarkets' insistence that you should throw away your little pot of mint or sage is that you will have to return to the supermarket more often to replace it. We are in the middle of a great herb explosion in home cooking, brought on by television cooks and holiday eating in France. I

do not entirely approve. Too often I find converts to fresh herbs go mad. Lemon thyme with fish is fine but when, on the principle that two herbs are better than one, a herb-frenzied throws in a sprig of rosemary, we are into overkill.

Ian Thomas, boss of Culpeper, the herb specialists, tells me that Britain is now keener on the aromatic little plants than northern France — though not the herb-happy south.

"Dill is the coming thing," he says. "All sorts of new varieties are coming in from America and some of them are delightfully delicate."

Nicholas Culpeper, the physician-herbalist and father of British herb-growing with his book *The British Herbal*, said: "The cook should be half-physician."

Mr Thomas believes that we are beginning to get back to the notion of using herbs as a way of helping us digest food.

He says: "People think of fish, for instance, as something easy to digest. In fact it is quite difficult. Fennel and dill definitely aid the process."

He believes that in the coming decade we shall all become more interested not only in the pleasant flavours herbs give food, but in their digestive value.

Possibly — but we must not go overboard. Herbs have to be treated with respect when it comes to health. For example, the National Trust's *The Complete Book of Herbs* warns against overuse of sage over long periods, which can cause an upset stomach. The pungent variety of mint called pennyroyal should not be taken by pregnant women (in Victorian times infusions of pennyroyal were used as an abortifacient). And rue can bring many people out in blisters just from handling it.

FRANK JEFFERY

Cook's tour of the book shelves

Where can you read the book, then buy the condiments? At the Glasgow temple of a man with a foodie mission

Ian Murray stayed 18 years too long in his last job. Had he left sooner he wouldn't be any wealthier now (the reverse, if anything), but he would be spiritually richer. "This shop allows me to indulge two of the most important features in my life: books, and food and drink."

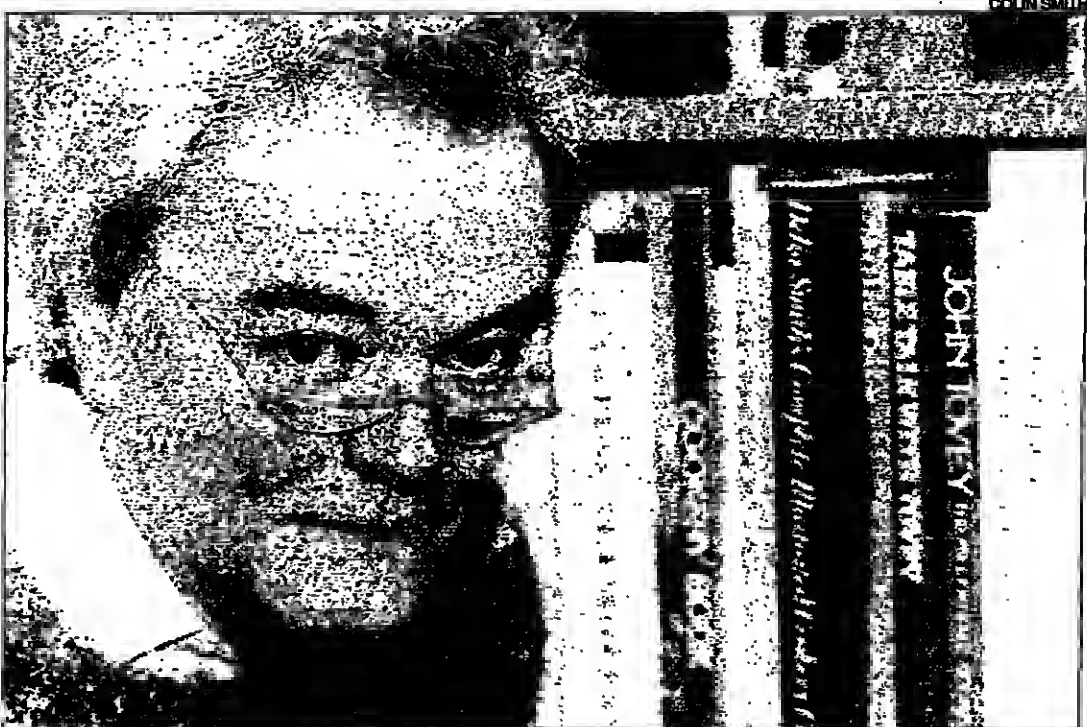
In December 1989, after 21 years at Glasgow University's bookshop ("I should only have stayed three"), Mr Murray opened Word of Mouth, Scotland's only cookery bookshop. "I felt there was a gap. Besides myself, only Books for Cooks in London has a stock of new and second-hand books and is open to the public. Other people who specialise in food and drink books operate from home on a mail-order basis."

To find the shop you need to be committed. On the end of a row of gloomy Victorian tenements in an unfashionable road in Glasgow's fashionable west end, the shop is ideally placed to miss passing trade. "I couldn't afford the prices on the obvious main roads," he explains.

It's a one-and-a-half room shop. You step into a large, airy, high-ceilinged room, complete with original (dusty) plaster cornices and striped-wood floor. The huge windows are hung with colourful stained-glass panels depicting fruit and vegetables. In the centre of the room is an enormous refectory table heaped with books. Above along the walls are inset with ceiling-high shelves, each dealing with a specialised subject — Scottish, socio-academic, fish, barbecue, macrobiotic and so on.

Scattered on the floor are piles of oven gloves, crisp linen glass cloths, stainless-steel steamers, chopping boards and other kitchenware. Chutneys, oils, vinegars, jars of dried tomatoes and pickled condiments are distributed along window sills. Radio 3 murmuring quietly induces calm.

The half-moon is a tiny space at the back of the shop, which Mr Murray grandly calls the gallery. It is not always in use, primarily because exhibitions have to be food and drink related. "I'd put on



Eating his words: Ian Murray with a handful of the 1,000-plus titles on sale in his Glasgow shop

anybody if I could find them," he says, a little desperately.

With more than 1,000 different titles, plus a secondhand and antiquarian section, what you won't find here are what Mr Murray calls "good housekeeping and microwave" books. "Without being arrogant, they are for people not interested in cooking." What you will find are whole shelves devoted to, say, mushrooms or chocolate or marzipan; around 150 books solely on French or Italian cooking; books on subjects as specialised as Japanese snacks, currying chicken or New Zealand bean recipes; cultures as varied as Moroccan, Polish and Eskimo.

There are scholarly works, encyclopaedic volumes — *Le Repertoire de la Cuisine* by Louis Saulnier has 16 pages (15 entries per page) devoted to sole alone — the plain-speaking *The Book of Marmalade*, and the esoteric *Honey from a Weed*. The rarest book is a 1769 edition of Elizabeth Moxon's *English Housewife*, price £190.

"What I didn't realise, somewhat naively, was that so many of my customers would be chefs and restaurateurs," Mr Murray says. "But I find that very encouraging." People from England and Ireland make special pilgrimages, while visiting London business executives (including a conductor) allow time to pay a call before catching the shuttle home.

Why these people need so many

'Foodies can be terribly boring to their friends... whereas in here they can completely self-indulge'

cookery books when the majority of us get by on a sauce-stained two or three, is easily explained. "They usually only use one recipe out of each. They buy to read, it's almost an addiction," says Mr Murray, who admits to suffering the symptoms. "Jane Grigson, for example, I find totally absorbing."

The shop's current best-seller is *The Greens Cook Book*, based on recipes from a San Francisco restaurant. "It encapsulates my market because it's so extremely innovative, combining things you wouldn't think of," Mr Murray discovered cooking late in life, in his mid-thirties, when he met his partner, Annie Good, an accomplished cook.

He has "been inside" every book in his shop — "as you can see, I'm not particularly rushed off my feet", he comments — and offers invaluable

able help for both the expert and the keen amateur. "Your mother is just starting to cook vinegar?" he enquires of a young student. "In that case, I'd recommend *The Savoury Way*."

While most people quietly browse, it doesn't take much before a conversation starts. "Foodies — I hate the word but it's so appropriate — can be terribly boring to their friends because their conversation inevitably turns to food and drink. Whereas in here they can completely self-indulge."

And stock up. Mr Murray began keeping delicatessen items partly through sheer desperation at not being able to find decent oils and vinegars in Glasgow. They are not cheap. His oils (single producer, first pressing, cold pressed) start at £7.50 and go up to £15 for a 1/2-litre bottle. His balsamic vinegars are matured for up to ten years and he recommends them for salad dressings, sauces and deglazing pans. A customer wonders whether it's true that in Italy the vinegar is drunk as an aperitif. "Oh absolutely! In Modena it was part of a girl's dowry," Mr Murray scurries to the Italian section, swiftly selects *Secrets from an Italian Kitchen* by Anna del Conte and turns to page 306 to prove his point.

HELEN PICKLES

● Word of Mouth, 29 Bank Street, Glasgow, G13 8NE (041-357 4282). Mon-Sat. 10am-6pm.

Seeds yield a harvest of plenty

Frances Bissell finds good eating from the grains in her kitchen cupboards



WHEN I started thinking about grains and grain recipes, I checked my store cupboard and was surprised at the range I found. Not counting the flours for baking, I found polenta and yellow cornmeal, the same thing but with different names in Italy and America. Basmatic rice to serve plain with curries or as a scented, golden pilau; Arborio rice for risotto; Calasparra rice from Valencia to make paellas; round grain rice for puddings; brown rice; wild rice; and even a bag of black, glutinous rice from Singapore.

There was also pot barley and the more refined pearl barley for casseroles, oatmeal for baking and for breakfast porridge, and grits - hulled and milled from corn. There, too, was fine semolina, milled from wheat, for puddings and biscuits, as well as pasta and gnocchi; just a little adds body.

There was also a jar of couscous, made from semolina grains moistened, rolled into small balls or "grains", and coated with a finer wheat flour for steaming. I serve couscous with meat and vegetable tagines, fragrant, spicy Moroccan-style stews.

Bulgur wheat is also a partially processed grain that is further cooked by moistening with boiling water or steam. It can be served in the same way as couscous or with grilled lamb kebabs and salad.

Both grains also make excellent salads. When they have swollen to their full size, I mix in olive oil, chopped mint, coriander, parsley, grated lemon zest, perhaps some stoned, chopped black olives, some diced, seeded tomato and some mild onions or shallots. Then add seasoning and a little lemon juice.

Millet and quinoa, too, can be prepared in this way, although they are equally good accompaniments for meat or fish dishes in place of rice and potatoes. Millet is much nicer than its birdseed connotations might lead you to believe. Quinoa is a similarly tiny, round grain, about the size of a sesame

seed and, like millet, when cooked yields about four times its original volume of fluffy grain.

Any of these grains - the more unusual ones can be found in healthfood shops - can be added to bread recipes for variety. Hard, unprocessed grains will need soaking or pre-cooking in advance, and I would not add more than a handful or so for each loaf.

Broccoli risotto with smoked salmon butter
(serves 6-8)
2 small onions or shallots, peeled and finely chopped
2tbsp extra virgin olive oil
1lb/455g risotto rice, such as Arborio
up to 3pt/1.7l vegetable or chicken stock, which should be boiling
1lb/340g broccoli florets
Salmon butter
1lb/110g smoked salmon pieces
1lb/110g unsalted butter
large pinch of mace
1 lemon
freshly ground pepper

In a large frying pan or sauté pan, gently fry the onion in oil until somewhat transparent. Stir in the rice and when it is well coated with oil, add 4pt/140ml stock and stir until absorbed. Add a further 4pt of stock, then cook until it, too, is absorbed.

With the next batch of stock, add the broccoli florets, broken into small pieces. Continue to add stock and stir from time to time to stop the rice sticking.

Meanwhile, make the salmon butter by blending the pieces with the butter and mace in a food processor. Add the grated lemon zest, lemon juice and black pepper and briefly process again. Spoon into a bowl. This will probably give rather more than you need for the risotto; any leftover is good on toast or stirred into freshly cooked pasta.

The risotto may be cooked without adding all the stock; some people like the rice to have a firm centre, but I prefer it tender and creamy. Serve the risotto as soon as it is ready in heated soup plates, and pass the salmon butter around

separately. The salmon butter turns this simple vegetable risotto into a luxury dish at a relatively low cost, as it uses pieces. To drink with it: a crisp Italian Chardonnay from Alto Adige.

Polenta with peppered sausage
(serves 6)
4 pieces dried tomato, optional
1lb/455g meaty coarse-cut sausage, Italian, Toulouse or similar
2 or 3 sprigs of rosemary
2tbsp extra virgin olive oil
1tsp freshly ground black pepper
1lb/455g polenta

If using dried tomatoes, cut each piece into several strips and soak in 1/2pt/70ml hot water. Squeeze the sausages out of their skins and fry the meat over a gentle heat until all the fat is rendered. Pour this away, and continue frying the meat with the addition of the rosemary and the olive oil. Add the tomatoes, their soaking liquid and the black pepper. Continue cooking, stirring from time to time until the meat is cooked and most of the liquid has

evaporated, leaving just enough for a little sauce for the polenta.

Meanwhile, cook the polenta according to the directions on the packet. The polenta should be poured steadily into the boiling water and stirred continuously to avoid lumps. The polenta is cooked when it begins to pull away from the side of the pan.

Serve the polenta in heated soup plates and spoon the sauce on top, having removed the rosemary sprigs. Any polenta left over can be poured into a loaf tin; when it has set, it can be turned out, sliced and grilled and served at another meal.

Bava's Dolcetto d'Asti wine is a good match for this dish.

Pigeon breasts with scented rice
(serves 4-6)
4 wood pigeons
2tbsp honey
2tbsp cider
1tbsp cider vinegar
1tbsp ground cinnamon
1tbsp ground cardamom, or crushed cardamom seeds

1-2tbsp sesame seeds
1lb/230g Basmati or Patna rice
3 or 4 fragrant leaves or flowers, such as lemon verbena, lemon thyme, scented geranium, lemongrass, kaffir lime leaves or dried lime flowers (linden) or jasmine
zest of lemon
2 cloves
1tbsp toasted sesame oil

Remove the breasts from the pigeons. Trim and wipe them. Remove the skin and any shot that you can ease out. Mix the honey, cider, vinegar and spices and brush the mixture over the meat, coating it thoroughly. Cover and marinate. Chop the carcasses, brown them well, put in a saucepan and cover with water. Bring to the boil, skim off any foam and simmer on a low heat for 2-3 hours. Strain. About a pint of the stock can be reduced to make a sauce for this dish; the rest can be kept for a game soup.

Put the rice in a heavy saucepan and pour on 16fl oz/455ml water. Tie the leaves together and add to the pan with the zest and cloves.

Bring to the boil and then turn the heat right down. Cover with a tight-fitting lid and cook for about 20 minutes, by which time the rice will have absorbed the water yet remained fluffy and unsticky.

Meanwhile, heat the grill. Remove the meat from the marinade, blot off excess moisture, but leave enough to hold the sesame seeds. Scatter these on to the side you are grilling first. Cook for 7-8 minutes on one side, first on a high heat, then lower it. Carefully turn over the meat, scatter with more sesame seeds and continue grilling until done to your liking. Remove, put to one side, covered, in a warm place, while you finish the sauce.

Strain the marinade into the reduced stock. Bring to the boil, add salt and pepper as necessary. Remove the leaves, cloves and zest from the rice. Spoon on to hot plates. Slice the pigeon breasts into two or three, arrange on the rice, and spoon over the sieved sauce. Sprinkle with a little sesame oil.

With this we might drink a sparkling wine such as Cava.

Orange and cinnamon rice pudding
(serves 6-8)
4tbsp round grain or pudding rice
1pt/570ml semi-skimmed milk
1/2pt/280ml full-cream milk
1 cinnamon stick
3 clementines or Seville oranges
sugar to taste

Lightly butter an oven-proof dish and put in the rice. Pour in the milk and add the cinnamon stick. Peel the thinnest possible layer of zest from the fruit, cut into strips, and add to the rice and milk. Cook in the bottom of a slow oven, about 150C/300F, gas mark 3, for 2 1/2-3 hours, until the rice is tender and swollen, having absorbed the milk. Remove cinnamon stick. Grate the zest from the remaining orange into the rice and squeeze in the juice. Sweeten to taste and serve.

Make individual chilled rice puddings by spooning into ramekins and refrigerating overnight. Spoon a layer of brown sugar on the top and let it melt and caramelize under the grill.

Cuisine with street cred

Throughout the subcontinent, some of the best Indian food is prepared in the open air

The pungent aroma of incense, cow dung and frying spices was still in the languid heat of an Indian afternoon. I threaded my way through the bazaar, between bicycles and bullock carts, past pyramids of spices and barrows of fruit, in my search for street food, the spicy snacks called *chaat*, cooked in roadside stalls.

My culinary journey had begun in Delhi, where India's Mogul rulers left a legacy of Persian food, which was absorbed into the national cuisine. In the shadow cast by the walls of Shah Jahan's Red Fort, I tasted my first real samosas. Hot and crunchy, they were lifted straight from the boiling oil of a *karahi* - a wok-like pan of cast iron, 2ft in diameter, indispensable for deep frying and stir fries.

From Delhi I caught a train westwards to the pilgrim city of Pushkar. Some of the best *chaat* is found on Indian stations, which is fortunate as you could die of hunger waiting for a delayed train. Dangling from a delayed train, Dal-filled chapattis, cucumbers sprinkled with toasted cumin and sour mango seasoning, and split peas fried in a peppery masala of freshly ground spices are hawked along the platform. Always the piercing cry, "Chai! Chai!", can be heard above the din, from the man with his portable aluminium urn selling tea in unfired terracotta cups.

En route, I bought a handful of pakoras wrapped in a newspaper cone, passed to me through the rustling window bars. They turned out to be crunchily fritters studded with the seasonal vegetables I had seen in the bazaar - desi palak, a wild spinach, and fat lalka from the squash family, chopped and fried in a chickpea batter infused with pomegranate seeds.

At dawn the next day, among the narrow streets of



Eating on the move: food stalls on a Bombay street

Pushkar, little changed since the middle ages, preparations were already under way in the small food stalls. The spitting sound and acrid smell of scorching fat was carried in the chilly air. Smoke clouded the dark confines of an alley where boys were busily stoking primitive clay stoves with wood and dried cow pats.

I joined a group of pilgrims returning from the bathing ghats, to queue for paneer poori. Shivering by the stove we watched the cook shape balls of wheat dough, which ballooned as he dropped them in boiling oil. With his thumb he crushed a hole in the hollow breads, stuffing them with a filling of bitter-tasting tamarind water and boiled pea masala - a recipe guaranteed to warm chilled bones.

Two hundred kilometres south, in the crowded bazaars of Udaipur, I tried *bari*, dense wheat rolls flavoured with

coriander and fennel seeds, traditionally a staple food of desert people. The cook explained how the freshly baked *bati* were first dunked in clarified butter called *ghee*, then roughly crushed on a metal tray and covered in dal.

Fortified with calories for a month, I took a bus to Mount Abu, a culinary crossroads on my journey. Holidaymakers from surrounding states have brought their fast food to this hill station. The Gujarati people contributed *pau-bhaji*, cooked on a heavy cast iron griddle or *tava*. The aromatic smell of this chilli hot tomato and potato dish drew me to the stall, where the spectacle of a frenzied cook energetically pulverising the ingredients on a *tava* enticed me to linger. This was street entertainment. Defily he scooped the pulp on to toasted buns with a spoonful of chilli sauce, a sprinkling of rock salt and red onion, and urged me to "enjoy!"

Chaat is often consumed on

the hoof. Wherever there is a crowd, there will also be *thalas*, hand-drawn barrows stacked high with freshly fried cashew nuts, warm roasted peanuts and puffed rice called *murmura*.

I found the *piece de resistance* of my gastronomic pilgrimage one miserable afternoon in a muddy bus station. Queuing in the pouring rain for a ticket back to Delhi, I noticed a *thala-wallah* selling potato patties, which sizzled temptingly on the periphery of a *tava*, balanced over a portable charcoal stove. He placed a patty in a bowl of woven leaves, covered it with chickpeas simmered in a fiery sauce, scattered over raw green chilli, doused this with a dollop of curd and seasoned it with red chilli powder. This little dish was an inferno of flavours.

Street *chaat* is fresh, fast, and full of flavour. Be courageous enough to try it, and you will experience the true taste of India.

Pao-bhaji
(serves six)
1 1/2lb potatoes peeled, boiled and diced
3tbsp sunflower oil
4 green chillies, chopped
1 heaped tsp freshly ground ginger
4 dried red chillies crushed
14oz/fresh or tinned chopped tomatoes
1tbsp garlic and ginger paste, dissolved in 6tbsp water
2oz butter
2tsp garam masala
small bunch fresh coriander, chopped
juice of a lime
6 soft white batch buns
1 red onion

Heat the oil in a heavy-based pan and fry the green chillies, ginger and tomatoes over a medium heat for two minutes. Lower the heat, add red chillies and potatoes. Mash the mixture, slowly adding the dissolved pastes. Increase the heat and stir in the butter until melted. Season, then mix in the coriander with the garam masala and lime. Traditionally served on toasted buttered buns, with chilli sauce, chopped red onion and yoghurt, it is also excellent as a vegetable accompaniment to a meat dish.

SARAH MARSH

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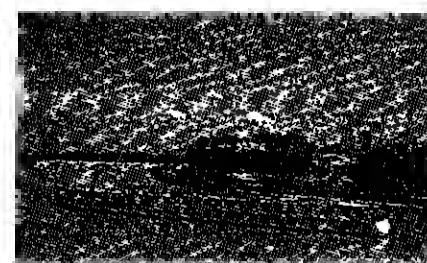
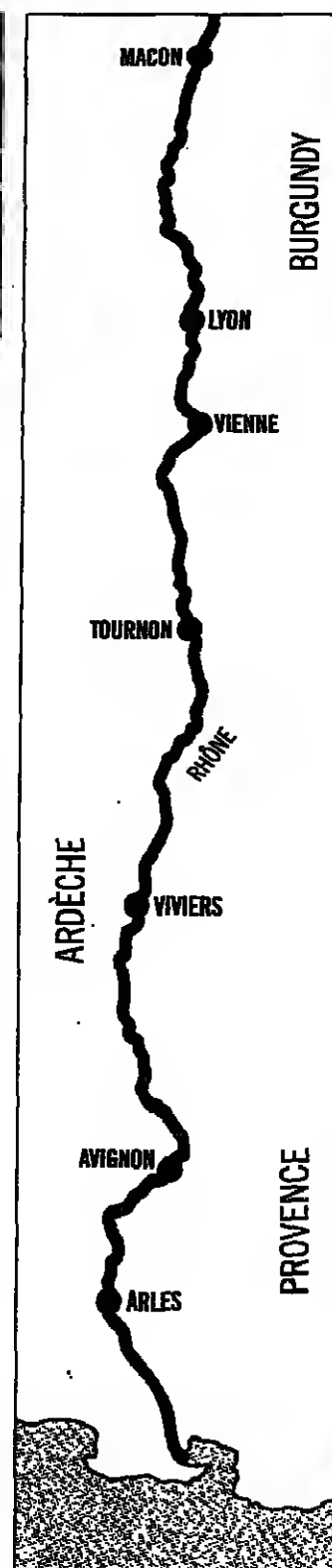


This wonderful special offer from Noble Caledonia allows one to travel through the idyllic countryside of the Saône and Rhône during springtime, far away from the busy roads and motorways. During the weeks sailing, visits will be made to Macon, Lyon, Vienne St Colombe, Tournon, Viviers, Avignon and Arles, on a journey linking the heart of Burgundy with the far south of Provence.

Highlights for many will be Cluny with its Roman Abbey set in the beautiful Beaujolais countryside. Lyon - a gastronomic delight and home to an extraordinary collection of Gothic art. Roman Vienne, Tournon in the heart of the Rhône vineyards and Viviers, surely the most wonderful medieval village in France. On day five we sail into Provence and explore the Roman wonders of Arles and Avignon, the Carmargue and the enchanting countryside.

To our minds, this is the ideal way to explore this lovely corner of France, avoiding as it does tiring road journeys and the need to move from hotel to hotel along the route. In addition there is no doubt that a different perspective is gained from aboard a river vessel as she navigates slowly through the peaceful landscape. On some sections of the river there is the attractive feeling that one has stepped back in time with little visible of the 20th century.

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Not everybody wants to rule the world

James Hepburn found that any thirst for power he might have had was quenched early

The urge for power is a mystery. With some it is stillborn. With others it grows until all Europe lies in flames at their feet. Which ever way we go, the first taste of power is a turning point.

We start life as parcels. Babies, unless they are the Dalai Lama, are as powerless over their fellow men as they are over their bowel movements.

The one clear memory I have of infancy is of lying in the garage being barked at by a big dog. All my sympathies now are with the dog and his shock at looking over the rim of the pram and seeing my prune-like face. However, I remember very strongly wanting the dog to go so I could get on in safety with eating, sleeping, screaming and looking at the garage roof. I had strong views on what was best for me, but none on what was best for the rest of the world.

Children have no political manifesto or theories on macro-economics. I imagine that, at the age of three, the last thing on Hitler's mind was the invasion of Poland. I doubt if he could spell Poland, let alone Czechoslovakia.

Adolescence brings the first urges to meddle in the business of others. We can handle this life business, so why are we still treated like half-wits? We want status to go with the new hairstyle. We demand a little respect. But to make a splash we need a gang. Power lies in numbers.

This burst of energy leads to trouble in countries where there are factions loose looking for blunt instruments. The teenager makes the world's best blunt instrument. In return, the teenager is given a gun. There is little more frightening than a Kalashnikov in the hands of a 12 year old. You can look in vain for signs of life in the eyes beneath the helmets of Guatemalan conscripts or Khmer Rouge boy-soldiers.

The advantage of milk-sop liberal democracy is that the first experience of power is usually unarmed. There are exceptions. In some schools in south London, it is as well to slip a shiv into your pencil case. The *Uzi User's Manual* is a more practical birthday gift to a teenage soldier in the Washington crack wars than the *Just William* omnibus. But if we are lucky, the closest we come to power is a prefect's tie.

My tie was a rather nice red, dotted with little black lions, like zoo escapes in a sea of blood. It was 12 years old. If it had been offered, I would have been open to fascism, communism or militant religion. As it was, being not only English but from Guildford, I believed in Alf Tupper, "the tough of the track" in the *Victor* comic, and playing "three-and-in" with my friend Martin on Sunday afternoons.

The tie was not an empty symbol. With it came powers. We were given two sets of cards, one yellow and one white. The yellow were called "conduct cards" and were for use against crimes of petty violence and

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minor vandalism. The conduct card was a matter of honour. Too many conduct cards and your house lost the chance to be "top house". The criminal could no longer hold his head up in public. He became a rat in a street full of men. The white were "detention cards", kept for serious criminals with no honour left to stain.

On my first morning, I discovered that power was not for me. John Buttery, the Lower Remove expert in psychological warfare, took three hours to push me to the edge. In this time I gave him four conduct cards. The fifth time he flicked the red tie with the little black lions out of my jacket. I reached for the white cards. Seeing his smile of victory, I drew back my hand and smiled back, a little sickly. I had been taught that I lacked natural authority. There are those whose men will follow them anywhere and those whose men have, unbeknown to them, slipped quietly off to the pub. I am one of the latter and am grateful that I learnt this young enough to avoid politics or the armed forces. I have a

lot to thank Buttery for, wherever he may be. Perhaps he is the dictator of a small Latin American republic.

There are two ways of looking at those with a hunger for power. Slaves to the urge see it as a desire to build a better world. The rest of us tend to follow the darker Shakespearean line. Just as it seems unlikely that Macbeth killed Duncan because only a King Macbeth can give Scotland a decent housing benefit and health-care policy, so there is something fishy in the idea that Joe Hargrave wants to be mayor just to give the small man a square deal. Justly or unjustly, we suspect that Hargrave, mocked by bigger boys at school for his spindly legs and sneered at by his sister, wants someone to boss around.

Whatever the motive, there is no going back on the road to absolute power. Great men and great women do not go gentle into that good night. The dictator dies at the helm or melts bitterly away like Strossner, the deposed strong man of Paraguay, exiled in São Paulo, querulous at

the emptiness of long days without gold braid. The deposed democratic leader niggles from the wilderness, waiting in vain for the aide with the red box.

So, why devote a life to power? Henry Kissinger called power "the ultimate aphrodisiac". President Mitterand's description of Baroness Thatcher as having the lips of Marilyn Monroe and the eyes of Caligula may tell us more about him than her, but there is no doubt that sex had a part to play in this country's relationship with the lady. It is surprising how many people want to fool around with those who order them about.

However, it was surely a deeper instinct than sex or money which guided Macbeth's hand and drives the ambitious to years of addressing empty village halls on the advantages of monetary policy and rates reform. The answer may lie in childhood.

Children want recognition from their parents. They do not climb out of the attic

window for fun. They do it to say, "Look at me! I'm climbing out of the attic window!" The dictators and the politicians, the emperors, all who have clawed their way to the top, may still at heart be climbing out of the attic window. As they get more power, they can say to more people: "Look at me - I'm a prefect" or "Look at me - I'm president", until finally, like Nero, they can say: "Look at me - I'm God!"

The reassuring side of the power game is that, in life as in fiction, the heroes are the failures and the powerless. The problem with ambition is that it takes itself seriously. If it stops to laugh, it is lost. If we have to be dumped on a desert island, we want Bertie Wooster and not John Major for company. We want Hattie Jacques and not Lady Thatcher. If we need a dictator, we want Tony Hancock, declaring that the extra two feet on his back garden is his last territorial demand in East Cheam.

Thanks to Buttery I have command over one dog. But he ignores me when I tell him to sit.

RESTAURANT WATCH

From Soho to Portobello, what's new in London

SUPER TUSCAN
Bertorelli's
44a Floral Street, London WC2 (071-836 3969)
Maddalena Bonino, former Young Chef of the Year from Tuscany via 192 Frith's, has now put her stamp on the food opposite the Opera House's stage door. Yet the prices have not gone up. About £24 a head, or £10 in the café. Lunch Monday to Friday from noon, last orders 3pm (Saturday café only, same hours), dinner Monday to Saturday 5.45-11.30pm (from 5.30pm in café).

PORTOBELLO
The Nice
6-8 St James Road, London W11 (071-243 1448)
The short-lived, Portobello Dining Rooms have been replaced by a bar-restaurant designed by Anand Zenz, who gave Camden Town Belgo. The bar has bicycle saddles on pogo sticks for seats, blue lights and an undulating sheet metal wall. The tables are curiously colourful. The menu changes monthly (currently North American bias, so does the drinks list (current Belgian beers, Chilean and Australian wines and Brazilian cocktails). The chef is Canadian Michael Lamos, formerly of Melange, in Endell Street and Joe Allen, and the manageress is Paula Carroll from Belgo, Lunch 12-3pm, Monday to Friday, brunch Saturday and Sunday 11am-4pm, dinner 6-12pm seven days a week.

THREE STAR
Tante Claire
69-69 Royal Hospital Road, London SW3 (071-352 6045)
Michelin's new three-star requires booking three weeks ahead, but then before the recession it was six. Pierre Koffmann is not increasing prices despite his promotion to the ranks of the superstars. Set lunch £24.50, dinner about £50. Open Monday to Friday 12.30-2pm and 7-11pm.

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Curtain up on home entertainments

Robert Tewdwr
Moss discovers that
elaborate home-
grown amusement
is still thriving
in the 1990s

When you live in a fantasy palace like this," David Warbeck, the actor, says, "you feel it's something you want to share." The Convent is a Gothic Victorian fantasy (listed both inside and out), clinging to Rosslyn Hill in Hampstead, north London. It was designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott and became the home of his interior designer, Sir Alfred Bell.

Mr Warbeck is the "pasta masta" of more than 50 spaghetti movies ("Ned Sherrin told me, 'You've made so many awful films, darling, I'm going to nominate you for a Baffa for effort.'") and bought the house 15 years ago, starting the transition from the tacky to the wacky when he discovered the proscenium arch of a salon theatre beneath sheets of plasterboard. On uncovering marble pillars and

'I suppose I ham
the plays up
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super-theatrical
style'

Gothic archways, he realised he had a Victorian masterpiece on his hands. An old book in the Swiss Cottage library outlined the history of the house, and stated that Sir Alfred's lavish home entertainment had included performances by Liszt, Gilbert and Sullivan, George Grossmith and other stars of the Victorian stage in his very theatre.

"I suppose I am trying to reintroduce the idea of the salon theatre," Mr Warbeck says. "I love this house because it constantly has a flow of people coming through. If people come in the evening—often actors and film friends—we might put on a show, but I always ask them to bring people I don't know." The constant flow includes experts from the Victoria & Albert Museum and English Heritage, European royalty, nuns, doctors and film stars. Mr Warbeck often uses the house and theatre for charity events.

The huge Gothic rooms are decorated with Sir Alfred's original frescoes, studded with gigantic mirrors and adorned with busts and statues (mainly former film props). Appropriately enough with the current revival of vampires, Christopher Lee was filmed here for the *South Bank Show*, talking about the history of Dracula, and a performance of the cult show *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom* is currently under way.

The concert pianist Philip Fowke



That's entertainment: David Warbeck (left) with the ParLOUR Quartet, who have performed at his private salon theatre at the Convent in Hampstead, north London



Curtain up: George Speaight has given toy theatre shows since 1932

also gives performances in his home, set behind a Georgian square in London's East End. He bought a former warehouse and built a music studio in it, where stand his two grand pianos. He invites people over to "hear the run-throughs of my concerts." The studio, with its gallery, can accommodate 60 guests.

In November, he started his first

season of Sunday afternoon matinees of chamber music at which he or an invited guest (such as Hamish Milne) will perform. "I think the two most chilling words in the English language are 'concert pianist'," says Mr Fowke, the star of many a prom performance. "Concert-going has become too ritualised. You walk across a silent stage, dressed in black, to this great

black thing, spottily like a catalfogue. I often feel like genuflecting rather than performing. I'm sure people only clap at the end with relief."

Mr Fowke is a scion of an architectural family—a distant Fowke ancestor built the Albert Hall. He has Gothicised the former warehouse with ecclesiastical sadness, medieval archways, clerestries and trefoil windows. The altar rails from Our Lady Immaculate in Limehouse now lead into his garden.

Tea, coffee and wine are served at his Sunday afternoon concerts and members of the audience (who attend by written invitation or through word-of-mouth) make a donation, the proceeds of which go to the Musicians Benevolent Society or the Music in Hospitals movement.

"Now I've got this house finished, I want to share it," he says. "I like the informality of the gatherings and the opportunity to meet all the people you come across in the music business but never have time to chat to." Even people who know nothing about music.

There is only one social solecism to look out for in the Fowke household, and that is the wearing of stiletto heels. "I'm afraid I have to say, 'Would you terribly mind taking off your shoes, it ruins the parquet floor,'" Mr Fowke says, pointing to the pitted wooden blocks in his floor. Such are the perils of visiting the artist in his lair—for both audience and artist.

But entertaining at home does not have to be on the grand scale, as George Speaight will tell you. Mr Speaight is the leading expert on the English Toy Theatre, which was the Victorian child's wood-and-

paper replica of the popular theatre of the day. Since 1932, he has been giving private performances of *The Cornish Brothers* (one of Sir Henry Irving's greatest vehicles), *Sleeping Beauty* and *The Miller and his Men*.

Mr Speaight lives in Kew Green, west London, in a house bought by his father in 1932 after he was bankrupted in the depression. "I had to leave school early and worked in Bumpus' Bookshop in Oxford Street, where I put on shows for the children every Christmas," Mr Speaight says. It was here that George Bernard Shaw and J.B. Priestley saw the same show that you can see today in his drawing room.

"It gives focus to a party, and I was never very good at talking to people at parties," Mr Speaight says. Superior plonk is served and a pie from Newens Original Maids of Honour shop in Kew Green. "We fill guests up with drinks to start with to make them appreciative," says Mr Speaight, aged 78. With his bow tie and waistcoat, he looks not unlike a Victorian toymaker. "About 15 guests are invited to each performance. It always starts at 8.15pm on the invitation to each performance. If anyone is late, they have to wait, as I never interrupt a performance." The condensed per-

formance lasts about half an hour and Mr Speaight knows the script by heart. "There were over 300 adaptations made and they are the only record left of some plays. The sets, costumes and characters were all reproduced faithfully. The music comes from a Victorian music box."

Mr Speaight put on the plays for his children. "When they were teenagers, they were embarrassed at having a father who played with a toy theatre, but when they went up to Oxford, they became rather proud of me again."

The audiences include a sprinkling of "mad, passionate collectors" and the general public. These have included Miles Kington, Bamber Gascoigne, Peter Adkyn and theatre friends of George's brother, Robert Speaight, the actor, as well as publishing colleagues and family friends. Peter Baldwin, who plays Derek in *Coronation Street*, is a regular visitor and has just published his own book on the subject. "I suppose I ham the plays up terribly and it's all performed in a super-theatrical style," says Mr Speaight.

Today you can buy your own toy theatre replica for only a few pounds. It is tremendous fun and does not appeal only to the young. A reviewer from *The Star* wrote of one of the shows in 1934: "To the grey and bald in the audience, the experience was a pure delight." The same can still be said today.

Show time

- The performances described are all semi-private. Occasionally a word-of-mouth invitation is enough, but more usually one has to receive a written invitation. Some performances are put on to raise money for charity and donations are in order.
- Toy theatres can be bought at Pollocks Toy Museum, 1 Scala Street, London W1 (071-636 3452) for as little as £3.75. The nearest underground station is Goodge Street. *The History of the English Toy Theatre* by George Speaight is also available there, price £17.50. *Toy Theatres of the World* by Zwemmer, £19.95 by Peter Baldwin is available from most bookshops.
- If you want to hire artists to perform in your theatre, the ParLOUR Quartet have performed at the Convent and can be contacted at 63 Hemstal Road, London NW6 (071-624 2225).
- If you wish to hire a private theatre, you can hire the late opera diva Adelina Patti's theatre at Craig-Y-Nos Castle, Abercraw, Powys SA9 1GL, still privately owned (0639 730205).
- Lily Langtry's charming private theatre is now the hotel bar at the Inverness Court Hotel, Inverness Terrace, London W1, her former home.
- At Garsington Manor near Oxford, formerly the home of Lady Osmund Noel and frequented by the Bloomsbury Group, the owners have transformed a barn with oak panelling from Glyndebourne and are planning a series of concerts in the spring: April 24, 25, and May 22 and 23 (details on 0867 36636).
- If you are subject to budgetary constraints, it is worth remembering that the Schubert Society (in conjunction with the German YMCA) hosts "Schubertiade" or concerts of Schubert's music and songs on the third Sunday of every month at 3pm at the Lancaster Hall Hotel, Craven Terrace, London WC2. Free, but donations welcome.

Water worship

Ruth Gledhill attends an extraordinary service in a small circular dockside chapel with big ideas



THE Coronarium at St Katharine's Dock in east London, so called after a competition among dock workers to find a name, is one of the smallest chapels in London, with a circumference of only a few metres. But its reach is far greater, thanks to an audio system which broadcasts Canon Peter Delaney's every word to the farthest corner of the ancient dock. Loudspeakers mounted on lampposts and office walls ensure that few of the 4,500 shop, office and restaurant workers on the St Katharine's Dock site can remain unaware of the presence of the sacred in the midst of the secular.

Once the service was anending began, the dock was launched into the rite of the Anglican communion service: "Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open..."

Yachtsmen and passers-by seemed almost as surprised at the presence of this ebullient Christian rite in their midst as they would have been had Neptune risen from the waves. I welcomed the protection of Simon Latham's statue of Lazarus raised from the dead by Christ, standing as a solid witness to our presence.

The Coronarium stands on a promontory linking the north and south dock basins, behind the Tower Bridge. It is the dream of Peter Drew, former chairman of the Taylor Woodrow group, which devel-

The Coronarium Chapel, of St Katharine, St Katharine's Dock, London E1 9AT (071-488 4772).

CHAPLAIN: Canon Peter Delaney
SERMON: Improvised without notes, scattered with appropriate allusions to fishing, boating and fishers of men.***
ARCHITECTURE: Simple classical rotunda with a dome. An elegant tribute to the medieval church demolished in the last century and to the engineer Thomas Telford, who went on to build the dock.***
MUSIC: Non-existent at our service, although recitals are sometimes held in the chapel.
LITURGY: The chaplain's enthusiasm made up for the limitations of Rite A of the Church of England's Alternative Service Book.***
AFTER-SERVICE CARE: No church hall makes tea and coffee impossible, but the chaplain gives expert pastoral advice, counselling or entertaining in one of the numerous dockside cafés or restaurants.***
* Stars are awarded up to a maximum of five.

oped the dock. Mr Drew carved the font, with its gold-leaf bowl, out of granite from the dock wall. His aim at St Katharine's was to build a community where people could live, work and play. "Part of living, working and playing must involve recognising the existence of God and praying," he says.

In accordance with his vision and expressed in the elements, we prayed in the presence of two catamarans, some private yachts, a ketch, an Atlantic racing yacht, some small rowing boats, six Thames barges, three long-boats and the old Nore lightship from the North Sea. On a Dutch cruiser the owner downed tools to join in the Lord's Prayer.

Canon Delaney waved to diners in the Tower Hotel's

carvery during the "peace", the part of the service where we all shake hands, and they waved back. Simultaneously, in the Waterside restaurant, lunchtime drinkers lifted their glasses to toast us.

The sermon was based on Jesus calling his disciples to be fishers of men. Maybe Canon Delaney's action during the peace, running outside the Coronarium to shake hands with a couple of bemused tourists walking by with packets of fish and chips, was a modern-day equivalent.

The Coronarium was built in 1977. Its Perspex crown, which hangs between two pillars on the west side of the chapel, was unveiled by the Queen on her Silver Jubilee walkabout. The chapel's cast-iron columns were rescued from the original dock, and



Sacred at the heart of the secular: Canon Peter Delaney in the Coronarium Chapel

replaced in a circle on the site of the original medieval church of the Royal Foundation of St Katharine, demolished in 1826.

St Katharine of Alexandria, patron saint of maidens, died a gruesome death. She was tied to a spiked wheel, rolled down a hill until the wheel broke, and finally beheaded. The instruments of her agony are alluded to in the chapel's construction: its circular shape, with pillars casting shadows like spokes across the centre.

My overall impression was of something fantastical, and this was enhanced after the service, when Canon Delaney and Terry Barber, parish clerk of nearby All Hallows by the Tower, strolled in their elaborate and ornate robes into the dockside Ivory House. This former warehouse is now con-

verted into apartments and offices. In a sumptuous suite of modern offices, Canon Delaney and his parish clerk disappeared through a small brown door marked "Vestry", only to emerge in suits and ties, looking for all the world like ordinary men.

We walked back past a new ship's chandler, a woollen shop, a leather shop and a tobacconist, and a small supermarket selling provisions for yachtsmen alongside goods for local residents.

Although serviced by an Anglican chaplain, the Coronarium is multi-denominational. The silver chalice and paten, the plate which holds the bread at communion, were blessed and given to the chapel by the Pope after Canon Delaney and Mr Drew met him in Rome. Methodists, Pentecostals

and Catholic monks have worshipped there.

Although the circle of columns was dedicated by Lord Cogan, former Archbishop of Canterbury, and the altar dedicated by Dr Graham Leonard, former Bishop of London, the Coronarium has never been consecrated as an Anglican chapel. It remains the private chapel of the London World Trade Centre, unbound by parish, denominational and even religious boundaries.

As the grey dock light refracted through the multi-faceted exterior, the hint of another dimension broke through with a sudden shaft of sunlight, and I could have sworn that Lazarus shifted slightly in the breeze.

● The Eucharist is celebrated at the Coronarium every Thursday at 12.30pm

The Times/Jameson Whiskey Event

Irish night out



The Times and Jameson Whiskey are offering readers the opportunity to taste and compare Irish whiskeys on February 15 and March 15. The tasting will be followed by a four course dinner with coffee and wine and a Jameson for just £35

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WEEKEND BREAK

From Land's End to Perthshire, hoteliers are tempting lovers with Valentine's weekends. Louise Hidalgo samples one

Deep in the forest, romance is stirring

I must come clean straight away. I have never understood the appeal of St Valentine's day. Red roses, a champagne dinner and an evening of the loved one's undivided attention: these things are welcome, on any day other than February 14.

So it was with somewhat reluctant heart that I set off with my partner to Hampshire's New Forest to get a foretaste of a weekend's St Valentine's offering.

The start was inauspicious. The car hiccuped its way through the Friday-night traffic, threatening that every splutter would be its last.

Two hours later we rattled over one of the many cattle grids which guard the perimeter of the forest, and breathed



in the thick peaty night air.

The New Forest is ancient and beautiful. Our destination, the Burley Manor Hotel in the village of the same name, has its fair share of that history.

The site of the hotel dates back to Norman times, when it was the ancestral seat of the de Burley family. In 1388, it was ceded to royal hands after the lord of the manor, Simon de Burley, was charged with treason for crimes unspecified, and beheaded at the Tower of London. Local people claim that the ghost of a horseman, perhaps the bearer of the ill tidings, can still be heard, pounding the drive to the manor.

The existing house dates from 1852, and its Victorian facade looks over rolling farmland, given over to strawberries and maize, down to the village beyond.

Inside, the hotel is a cheerful jumble of styles; log fires burn in the grates, dogs roam freely in the public rooms, and the overall effect is wholesome and welcoming. The wood-paneled



RICHARD WAYMAN



Safe haven: a barn owl at the New Forest owl sanctuary (top), within easy reach of the warmth of Burley Manor Hotel

elled dining-room, hung with portraits, where pride of place is given to a magnificent engraved walnut piano, has an air of faded grandeur. A sweeping staircase forms the entrance to a maze of narrow corridors.

The atmosphere is more cosy and homely than passion-inducingly opulent. Staff are friendly, ready to share a joke but also to keep a discreet distance.

Although late, we were given dinner and drinks before a

blazing fire. Later, in good St Valentine's fashion, a bottle of house champagne was brought to us in our room, an attractive modern suite overlooking the hotel gardens. Next morning, breakfast of kedgeree and "forester" saus-

ages — a delicious meaty local blend — was dispatched to our room.

Fortified and pampered, we prepared to explore the tracts of heathland and woodland of the New Forest, in whose preserve the hotel is set. The best way to do so, foresters insist, is on horseback. I had not sat on a horse, let alone persuaded one to move, for years. But, as Burley Manor boasts a riding-stable in its back yard, the challenge could not be refused.

As we set out in a fine drizzle of winter rain, even the most dedicated non-romantic could not fail to be moved by the beauty of the open heathland, blanketed with heather and dotted with ponies roaming free. Autumn leaves thickly carpeted the forest floor, and ancient, spreading oaks,

beeches and chestnuts lined the riding trails.

The foresters were right. From the vantage of a horse's back, we could see for miles to the rain-swept horizon. Hidden pools of black water, smelling richly of peat, were neatly sidestepped and unseen bogs avoided, leaving riders free to revel in the tempered wildness of the scenery.

The New Forest was set apart as a royal hunting preserve by William I, following the Norman Conquest. Ancient commoner rights, such as those of marl, estover and turbary — permission to remove clay for manure, firewood and peat — are exercised still, and pigs, deer and grouse wander undisturbed.

Warming brandies followed by a candle-lit dinner awaited us on our return. The menu was an imaginative array of well-prepared, mostly local produce. Later there was dancing to live piano music.

The highlight of the manor's St Valentine offering is the New Forest owl sanctuary. So there we duly headed on Sunday morning, although at first sight the romantic connection seemed based on little more than a weak "wooling" pun.

However, the custom of St Valentine's day most probably has its origins in the heathen belief that birds start mating on February 14, rather than in anything to do with the priest-cum-physician of that name who was martyred in the 3rd century.

As you enter the sanctuary, you can hear owls courting and quarrelling in preparation for spring.

The barn owls, to whose fight for survival the sanctuary is dedicated, are endearing creatures. Although shy, they rise to an audience, swooping and gliding in remarkable aerial movements.

Sitting on a trainer's outstretched arm, an owl swivels its white mask-like face; its two large black eyes vanish briefly as the bird blinks, and then reappear to scan the hall for unsuspecting prey.

Visitors are free to wander the maze of aviaries — in converted pigsties — or watch the birds' daily flights in the adjoining fields. The staff, most of them unpaid enthusiasts, are eager to share their knowledge.

Each aviary houses a new delight, from Nero, the golden eagle, one of the last of this endangered species to be taken into captivity, to the BBC peregrine falcon, tame star of many a wildlife documentary.

The sanctuary survives on donations. As guests of Burley Manor, we were given free entry and a £5 "sponsorship", courtesy of the management.

● The price of a room at the Burley Manor Hotel is £49.50 per person per night, including dinner and breakfast. Burley Manor Hotel, Burley, nr Ringwood, Hampshire (0425 403522).

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Breaks for lovers and others



Romantic landmark: Kingswear Castle, in Devon

● For the utter romance of the location, the State House Hotel (0756 871844), perched on the very tip of Land's End, Cornwall. £89 for two includes champagne, flowers, a Valentine's cake, and dinner with musical serenade. Sunday night only.

● For the more indulgent, the Glenelg Hotel (0764 662231) in Perthshire, Scotland, offers a "night of romance" with a limousine, bearing flowers and champagne, to ferry couples from the airport; silent nightwear and a dozen oysters, courtesy of the management, in every room; dinner by candlelight and a drive by horse-drawn carriage through the hotel's 830-acre estate. From £50 to £70 for two per night.

● Stapleford Park Country House Hotel, near Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire (057284 522), set in 500 acres of parkland, provides a more active weekend, with riding, hunting and clay-pigeon shooting, and five-course Valentine's dinner menu. A room costs £75 for two on Sunday night, dinner £35 a head.

● The Hotel Norwich (0603 787260) is offering "romance, Norfolk-style". For £95 per person, couples can enjoy three nights of St Valentine's trappings with a quirky plus an early morning sunset service, a rowing boat on the Norfolk Broads with wind-up gramophone, or for the more adventurous, a ride through the Norfolk fields on a combine-harvester.

● For those seeking a St Valentine's antidote, Fairbairn Manor Hotel in York (0904 602222) is offering a two-night "unromantic break". Beds 5ft apart, a four-pack of lager and two bottles of brown ale, cassettes of snoring and "other assorted night-time grunts" and a pair of woolly bed-socks. From £120 per person.

● If you want total escape from the world, the castles, cottages and historic curiosities managed by the Landmark Trust (0628 329923) offer a self-contained St Valentine's with a difference. Some of the charity's properties available next weekend include a clock tower on the edge of the beach at Lympstone, Devon (sleeps two, £138); Kingswear Castle overlooking the cliffs near Dartmouth, Devon (sleeps six, £465); an old chapel in Glastonbury-on-Wye, in Pembrokeshire (sleeps four, £234); or cottages on the Mull of Kintyre, Argyll (sleep four or six, £231 or £245).

Every day several thousand Scots snuff the early morning air and pray for the coldest, hardest and longest winter the Almighty and Michael Fish can provide. While others dream of holes-in-one or summer centuries on the village green, curlers dream of snow-dusted ponds and lochans frozen to glassy grey perfection beneath the bluest sky this side of heaven.

As it happens, all curling in Britain, even in Scotland, takes place indoors on ice rinks these days, for the very good reason that nothing now appears to freeze over the way it used to. It is 12 years since the Royal Caledonian Curling Club (150 years Royal this year) was able to summon Scotland's curlers to The Grand Match, the ultimate curling experience attended by clubs from Wick to Wigton, which is only ever played out of doors.

Nonetheless, the draw of teams is made each June, just in case, and a watch kept on five lochs capable of carrying several hundred curlers for the

greatest match, or bonspiel (meaning "good game", 16th-century low German), of all.

"Ah, yes, 1979," murmurs the Earl of Elgin, rummaging about for the Bruce family curling pedigree in his basement office at Broomhall, overlooking the Firth of Forth. "1979, annus mirabilis," and his eyes glaze over.

The Broomhall Curling Club, of which he and generations of Bruces have been presidents, has its own pond, its own lighting for playing after dark on short winter days and its own selection of curling stones. Once every estate and parish in Scotland boasted a curling pond. But unless it freezes hard for ten days, Broomhall must, like everyone else, "take ice" indoors.

"If you look at the old records," Lord Elgin says, "it is fascinating how similar club membership always was: the landowner who had the land for the pond, then the ministers and schoolmasters and doctors and so on."

"There was great rivalry between estates and parishes"



Clean sweep: action at the Perth curling championships

PHOTOGRAPHS BY NICK BOWMAN/NEWSTEAM



WHAT TO WEAR



Grunge on a shoestring

Caitlin Moran knows a charity shop fashion bargain when she and her siblings (below) see one — even if it ends up as a table cloth

People are always coming up to me and howling: "Good grief, Caitlin-girl, what are you wearing? How amazingly fashionable you are. That's grunge style, isn't it?" And I always reply: "NO, it is not. I'm not bound by the superficial rules of convention and trend — if the world decides grunge is fashionable, ergo, I will not be grunge. What I am wearing is an entirely new branch of couture. It's cheap, it's cheap, and it's cheap. It's called a BARGAIN."

Because I know a bargain when I see one. Some people have a psychic third eye, which they use to spot potentially fragmentary 747s their beloved should not board, or horses that, by dint of not falling over, are likely to cross the winning line first. I employ my not inconsiderable psychic abilities in trying to find my heart's desire — the elusive groovy black jumper that doesn't smell of cheese — or seeking out cute suede dresses with zips that work. The only guideline in my quest for a BARGAIN is that nothing should cost over £10. Yes, I hunt clothes in charity shops, where the smell of the jumper is more important than the shape or the colour.

Take dressing-gowns, for instance. Ah me, dressing-gowns. I'd seen Katharine Hepburn waltzing around various deliriously stylish films in her pyjamas and dressing-gown. Specifically, a tarian dressing-gown with a tasseled cord and three chunky little pockets. I wanted one.

This should be no problem, I thought, as every charity shop has at least three such dressing-gowns, smelling as if the

previous owners had died wearing them. (And, almost inevitably, these dressing-gowns come with a rigid ball of used tissue-paper in the pocket. One very special day, I came across a pocket with a cough sweet in it, which had been half-sucked, and then put to rest among all the many drifts of dust and fluff therein. But I don't expect anything that exciting to happen again.)

But still I keep trailing bargains. Shoes. Shoes are expensive, I reasoned. Why not buy them second-hand? A good sturdy pair of walking boots, fashionably seasoned by someone else's foot, would look great and be dead cheap.

I hid myself into town, and through long, slow, boring experience discovered Shoe Truth: basically, the kind of person

who is going to make a trip into town lugging a suitcase full of manky old shoes to the Spastics Society shop does also tend to be, unfortunately, the kind of person who nurtures bunions on every conceivable part of the body. Between the toes, on the heel, on the soles of the feet... everywhere.

This makes their shoes so warped and unwearable that only those with detachable toes and arches like hump-back bridges are likely to feel comfortable in them. Second-hand shoes are the epitome of the anti-bargain.

Still, I'm a fool to myself. Rainy Wednesdays lead me to the back of the shops, to the shelves with yards and yards of uncut cloth heaped up in bundles for 50p a go.

"Hmmm," I think, fingering a pile

expertly. "Hmmm, this material would make a jolly lovely dress. All it needs is a woman's touch. And some needles, cotton, big scissors, those pins with the big glass heads on, a thimble, a sewing machine that'll fit through the door of my bedroom plus a manual in one of the many languages I know — ie, English or Cantonese in those parts of Canton where they speak English — and some pictures of what the Princess of Wales was wearing last week. It'll take next to no time and I bet I'll look lovely."

Uh, no. What actually happens is a) the material is bought; b) it sits under the stairs for three months; c) it becomes an attractive table cloth.

And of course, you tend to get terribly possessive of your favourite charity shop. A tweedy lady in a suit comes in and I think: "Well, she doesn't look poor enough to come here. Quick, hide all the jumpers before she gets to them." If there's anyone looking through the smelly tartan dressing gowns at the back of the shop, I still get an irrational pang of jealousy, like watching an ex-boyfriend you can't stand talking to another girl. And I once broke down in tears when someone swiped a red velvet jacket from under my very fingers.

However, I consoled myself with the thought that that kind of grasping, petty-mindedness will undoubtedly lead to a painful, early death for the person concerned, and so comforted, I blew my nose on a pile of net curtains and carried on looking for the ultimate groovy black jumper, which will, I hope, not smell of cheese.



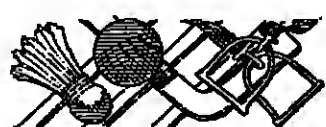
LEFT
John (aged 11) wears blue and black checked shirt from Oxfam, £1.25; jeans from Sense, £2; corduroy waistcoat (with embellishments sewn on back by Mum) from Spastics Society, £4; cotton zip-front jacket with elasticated waist from Sense, £5.14. Gear trainers, secondhand, £1 from a jumble sale at St Bartholomew's church, Wolverhampton.



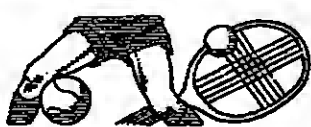
RIGHT
Claire (12) wears pink and blue headscarf with gold threading, 10p, and white plastic beaded necklace worn as bracelet, 20p, both from St Bartholomew's jumble sale; blue brushed cotton dress from Oxfam, £6; red knitted wool waistcoat from Spastics Society, £3.50; secondhand B&S black wool coat from Oxfam, £3.50; black suede lace-ups with blue laces from Bacons Shoes, £4.99.

For further information on your nearest branch call Oxfam (0865 311311), Sense (071-278 1009), Spastics Society (071-636 5020), Bacons Shoes (0773 540505), Miss Selfridge (071-636 8040), Top Shop (081-202 1141).

gham, £7; cotton/wool grey dress from Top Shop at Oxford Circus, £30.86 in the sale; knee-length elfridge, Oxford Street, £30 approximately; brown leather shoes by Mephisto from Oxfam, £4.50; mon top, £1.25, both from Oxfam; knitted grey waistcoat from Sense (charity shop for the deaf and blind), 20p, and Birthday shoes in black leather, £1, both from St Bartholomew's jumble sale.



SPORTING LIFE



Longing for the big freeze on the sheets

Alastair Robertson on the wonders of curling, 'The Roarin' Game'

as there is now between clubs." Today, clubs tend to draw their membership from among urban professionals of all ages rather than estate tenantry and peasantry. The Welsh, for instance, are organising curling for schools.

Ron Thornton from Preston, Lancashire, secretary of the English Curling Association, has at least two calls a week from people interested in taking up the game.

"Most of them are from the south of England," Mr Thornton says, although the north of England, with its proximity to Scotland, the birthplace of curling, is perhaps more naturally curling-minded than the south.

There are 650 curling clubs in Scotland, 14 clubs in Eng-

land, and one in Wales encompassing six clubs. Needless to say, clubs south of the border tend to draw their members from among exiled or second generation Scots, although Scottishness is by no means an essential requirement.

The game, for it is a game rather than a sport, is described as "lawn bowls on ice", but there are crucial differences. The game is played in winter rather than summer, even indoors; getting a curling stone to the right spot depends not on one player but four, two of whom are armed with

brooms; and, unlike bowlers, curlers do not wear Sainsbury meat counter trilbies. The average age on the English ladies' rink or team, is 25, and 28 to 30 for the men.

The aim of the game is to slide a circular granite stone by its handle along the ice into an area known as the house, and as close to the tee or centre as possible. The house is simply a

ringed target marked out at either end of the 46yd by 14ft "sheet", as the pitch is called.

There are four members to a rink (or team), and each member throws two stones. The Royal Caledonian Curling Club, from which all wisdom flows, decrees helpfully that "no stone shall have a greater weight than 44lb or a greater circumference than 36in or of less height than one-eighth part of its circumference".

New stones cost about £250 from the only manufacturer left in the world, Kays Bonspiel of

Mauchline in Strathclyde. Granite from Ailsa Craig, a guano-laden rock in the Clyde estuary, is still the most highly prized material for a curling stone.

Families such as the Elgins give sons a pair of curling stones for their twenty-first birthday. The rest hope to be left a couple, or find a pair holding open a coalshed door, or for sale in the local newspaper. But clubs normally have a supply of their own.

The eccentric part of the game is that while one person throws a stone, two other players on the same team precede its passage with brooms, brushing the ice frantically to influence its speed and direction towards the house. Knocking your own or

opponents' stones out of the way, or even into the way, is a tactical skill.

In theory, sweeping reduces atmospheric pressure in front of a stone and lubricates the leading edge by melting the ice through friction. How hard to brush and in which direction is dictated by a fourth-rank member, standing behind the house and shouting instructions. Tactics are dictated by the captain, known as the Skip, whose ability to "read the ice" is critical.

Once both rinks have played in one direction, known as "an end", everyone turns round and plays back again. There are ten ends to a game. Like golf, it is a lot harder than it looks.

The "Roarin' Game", as it is known from the noise a stone makes on ice, was certainly played in Scotland in the 16th century and exported to Canada in the 18th, supposedly by Highlanders playing with melted down cannonballs on the St Lawrence river after the siege of Quebec.

The Canadians went on to

beat the Scots at their own game and raised international competition to Olympic level. Scandinavians and most Alpine countries play. The Russians and Czechs are up and coming. The Japanese boast 13 clubs.

Non-sliding Brits play at St Moritz. But the English have rather a rough time of it at home because ice-rink managers like to see hundreds of skaters on their ice, not dozens of curlers. "We used to have to curl at midnight at Stratford," says Mary Stewart, former president of the London area.

Now comfortably established at Alexandra Palace in north London, and with growing membership, including an 11-year-old, London area clubs hold open evenings on a Friday and host two Royal Caledonian coaches.

Curling dinners, at which a toast is always drunk to Jack Frost, are notoriously sociable events and part of the game. "I have actually heard of clubs which have only ever held dinners," Lord Elgin says.

Facts for curlers

● Scotland: Local ice rinks will have dates of games and competitions and club details, but the Royal Caledonian Curling Club, at 2 Cosmo Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 7AN (031-225 7083), knows everything.

● England: Ron Thornton, secretary, English Curling Association, 66 Preston Old Road, Freckleton, Preston, Lancashire PR4 1PD (0772 634154).

● Wales: Ann Melick, 27 Holm Lane, Birkenhead, Merseyside L43 2HN (051-608 3691).

● Curling: Outdoor wear is a lot better inside or out, loose-fitting trousers make life a lot easier. Trailers are ideal for indoor curling.

● Equipment: There is no point in buying anything at first. New stones are expensive, and most clubs have their own.

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LINE

Inheritance tax is forcing the sale of one of London's most important studio houses and its contents, Rachel Kelly reports

Time runs out in Tite Street

The price of preserving historic houses for the nation is eternal vigilance and an ear to estate agents' gossip. Without a smidgen of publicity, one of London's most remarkable studio houses has slipped on to the market.

The substantial studio house was built in 1881 for the artist John Collier, when Tite Street was the centre of Bohemian Chelsea and home to Oscar Wilde and James McNeill Whistler. The newly industrial revolution took advantage of the building of the embankment and the creation of a new road, Tite Street, to build their temples to art.

Number 52 Tite Street, Chelsea, is arguably the most perfectly preserved remaining example. Untouched for more than a century, its contents are intact. This Grade II listed building is described by English Heritage as of "substantial importance to the history of London". The National Trust, the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea, the Victorian Society and the Chelsea Society all wish the house to be preserved with its contents.

Yet the most likely fate of the rambling, red-brick house is to be modernised, chopped up, and sold off in bits, its contents dispersed. Like its neighbours, it is likely to become studio apartments instead of an artist's studio. A low-key marketing campaign through the agents W.A. Ellis and Russell Simpson has just begun. Interested private buyers with more than £1 million to spare are being contacted and ushered round. Time is running out for 52 Tite Street.

The executors of the estate of the late Felix Hope-Nicholson, who lived in the house for more than 60 years, failed to persuade English Heritage, which turned it down for conditional exemption from inheritance tax, whereby the Inland Revenue postpones indefinitely the tax of 40 per cent of the value of the estate because of its historical interest to the nation, on condition that it is opened to the public. Although the story, it was not deemed to be of national importance.

The executors therefore have no option but to pay the tax now due by selling up, there being no other source of funds. Stephen Cooke, a solicitor acting on behalf of the executors, says: "We made valiant attempts to keep the house together, but there's nothing more we can do. We would rather not sell, but we have to pay the tax."

Conservationists point out that the only real certainty that the house will be unspoiled is if a private

benefactor were to provide at least £1.5 million to set up a charitable trust to preserve the house and its contents intact.

It could become a cultural centre for Chelsea. Sufficient income could be generated to pay day-to-day expenses, but an endowment would be needed for repairs and maintenance. A trust would not preclude the benefactor's residence.

The prospect of a benefactor must seem unlikely, but part of the problem is the discretion surrounding the sale. How can a benefactor

step forward if nobody knows of the architectural and historic riches at stake, nor that their future is threatened?

Mr Cooke says the sale has been kept discreet because "one doesn't like doing deals in the public eye. It might prejudice the sale." But he says there has been no attempt by the executors to hush up the sale and avoid the likelihood of a benefactor stepping forward. Rather, the estate agents felt that the most effective campaign would be low-key. Conservationists, such as the Chelsea Society, have been kept in touch about the sale, Mr Cooke adds.

Highlighting the house's treasures and its sale seems the best chance of wooing a benefactor. Home to the Hope family for just over 100 years, the house is stuffed with the possessions of a typical well-to-do artistic family, chiefly collected by Mr Hope-Nicholson, described in his *Times* obituary as a "host and genealogist".

The house was his passion. Bought by his grandparents, Adrian Hope and Laura Troubridge, in 1892, it inspired an extraordinary devotion in their descendants.

Built in the Queen Anne style, the mysterious and labyrinthine house has five floors and dusty passages. Mr Hope-Nicholson never stopped adding to the house's collection of family portraits. "Hope time" was kept by two clocks surmounted by the Hope crest with the motto "But hope is not lost" in the studio and the kitchen.

Later, the house has been discovered as a film and television location. Producers realised that its atmosphere and bloom is one that no set designer could fake. Several scenes for the BBC's drama *Portrait of a Marriage* were set there, as well as *Old Flames*, Simon Gray's television play.

Mr Hope-Nicholson managed to preserve the house by filling its 13 bedrooms with lodgers. In later years, it was easier to get a room if one of your parents had been what he described as a "member". Among the more colourful charac-



Undisturbed: the remarkable interiors and contents of 52 Tite Street include the dining room (above), the studio window (below left) and the kitchen (below right)

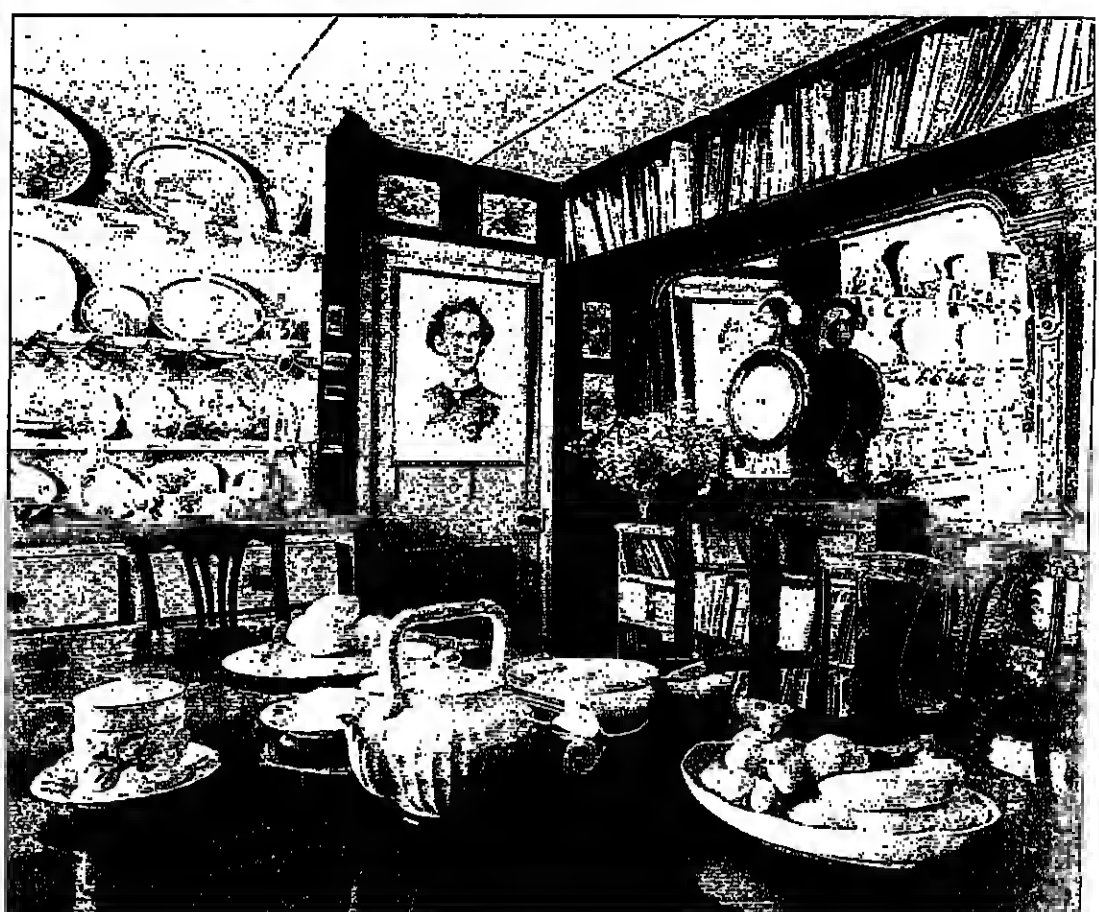


ters who have passed through the house are Sir Clemens Freud, Anthony Lammont, Peter Quennell, and a certain Miss Humbley, who apparently had a mania for mending household linen.

Mr Hope-Nicholson hoped that the house would be preserved as a permanent museum and hoped that the Chelsea Society would run it. Conservationists have added

their pleas. Surely now it is time for the huge circle of friends and lodgers who knew Mr Hope-Nicholson, and the public who could yet discover him and a slice of 20th-century history, to add their voices to the campaign?

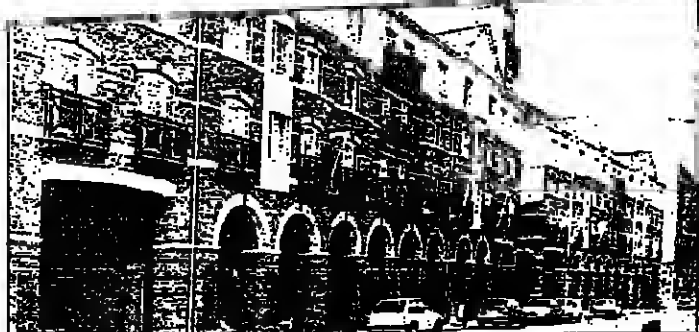
Interested readers should contact the Chelsea Society, 51 Millman Street, London SW10 0DA, which is leading the campaign to save 52 Tite Street.



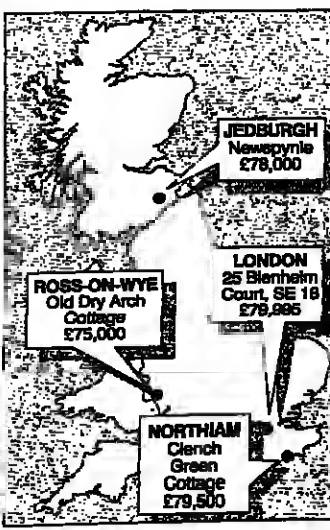
FOR SALE
around
£76,500



Herefordshire: Old Dry Arch Cottage, Marston, Ross-on-Wye (above). Detached cottage in good condition, with front and rear gardens. Two bedrooms, shower-room, reception hall, living room (with exposed beams), fitted kitchen/breakfast room. About £75,000 (Halifax Property Services, 0989 763553).



Cheryl Taylor finds four comfortable homes at modest prices



London: 25 Blenheim Court, King & Queen Wharf, Rotherhithe, SE16 (below). Fifth-floor flat in new development, overlooking the Thames. One bedroom, bathroom, kitchen, reception room, balcony. About £79,995 for 123-year lease. Service charges £1,415 p.a. (Keith Cardale Groves, 071-407 2790).



Scotland: Newspynie, Old Belsa, Jedburgh. Detached country cottage (fully renovated) in Border country, with gardens, stable block and 14-acre paddock. Three bedrooms, bathroom, three reception rooms, kitchen, utility room, cloakroom, conservatory. About £78,000 (GA Property Services, 0896 58387).



Sussex: Clench Green Cottage, Main Street, Northiam, Rye. Grade II listed 15th-century cottage (modernised), with garden. Three bedrooms, bathroom, two reception rooms (with beamed ceilings and inglenook fireplaces), fitted kitchen. About £79,500 (GA Property Services, 0797 252366).

On a wild and rocky shore

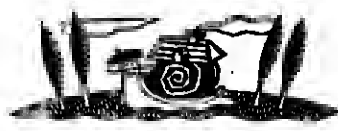
The newly renovated stone-built cottage pictured below, in the village of Tremenaillet, a few miles from the riverside town of Josselin in southern Brittany, is for sale at FF£350,000 (about £43,500) excluding agency and notary fees (Cheryl Taylor writes). The nearest ferry port is St Malo, about two hours' drive away.

The property has been modernised by its English owners, with a new roof, doors and windows, wiring, plumbing and a septic tank. It has four large bedrooms, shower-room, lounge with open fireplace, and fitted kitchen/dining area. It also has a walled garden with a lawn. The UK agent is Cottage Industry, 16 Queen Square, North Curry, Taunton TA3 6JS (0823 490354).

Alternatively, you can buy a pretty little house in a peaceful hamlet, near the town of Le Faouet, about 40 minutes' drive from the beaches on the Gulf of Morbihan. The price is FF£279,000, including agency and notary fees.

It has two rooms on the ground floor, shower-room and lavatory, and an attic which could be converted to provide additional accommodation. The price includes 4½ acres of garden, woodland and orchard. The UK agent is Normandy & Brittany Cottages, 62 Chesson Road, London W14 (071-381 4433).

Britany's southern coast includes wild and rocky headlands, interspersed with crescents of soft white sand, and the beautiful island-studded Gulf of Morbihan, a popular area for sailing and cruising. Lorient is one of Britany's biggest cities, with a huge natural harbour; Vannes, at the northern



Buyer's France

MORBIHAN

end of the great Gulf of Morbihan, has one of the loveliest medieval town centres, with a channel leading in from the sea.

Auray is a quaint old Breton port on the banks of the river Loc, a short distance inland is Ste Anne d'Auray, a pilgrim centre, where the largest of the Breton "pardons" takes place on July 25. Nearby is Europe's most famous prehistoric site, the alignments at Carnac — lines of 2,000 stones stretching for nearly a mile. Then there are the islands of Belle Ile, Houat and Hoëdic to explore.

Some of the best property buys

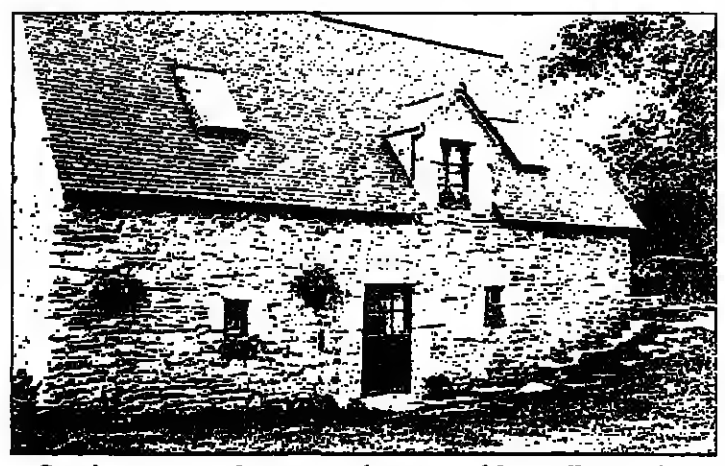
are to be found inland, where the Nantes-Brest canal meanders through picturesque riverside towns such as Malestroit, Pontivy and Josselin, a pretty little town, its fairy-tale castle mirrored in the waters of the river Oust.

The smallest of these, a run-down stone cottage, close to Malestroit, with four rooms and a hayloft, is for sale at FF£100,000. Expect to pay at least FF£250,000 for anything that is habitable: restored properties, with a modern kitchen and bath, start at FF£300,000.

Coastal properties are more expensive, but you can still buy a simple waterfront cottage in an old fishing village from FF£350,000.

Britany Ferries operates a year-round service from Plymouth to Roscoff (six hours) and Portsmouth to St Malo (nine hours) from March to December.

Alternatively, there are flights from Gatwick to Quimper, Brest and Rennes, or from Jersey to Dinard.



Cast in stone: newly renovated cottage with a walled garden

BBC1

7.00 Felix the Cat Animation (5938738) 7.15 Smogglers (1764754) 7.40 Playdays. For the very young (1907800) 8.00 Blue Peter's headquarter. Anthea Turner makes a model of the Thunderbirds headquarters (1555028)

8.15 Breakfast with Frost Includes a review of the day's national papers and news and weather at 8.15 and 9.00 (1518552)

9.15 The Good Book Guide Tony Robinson continues his exploration of the New Testament (1830362)

9.30 This is the Day Tony Robinson joins young people attending a conference at Canterbury. Tower in Midlothian (1830362)

10.00 See Hear Magazine series for the hearing impaired (174007)

10.30 Japanese Language and People (175129). Wales: Career training (2113). Wales: 10.30 See You Sunday 11.30 Off the Back of a Lorry. The prospects for British business in Italy (13042)

12.00 Advice Shop For consumers of welfare and public services (18221)

12.30 Country File John Craven explores rural issues (3618736) 12.55 Weather (08832910). Wales: Down to Earth (1830362) followed by On the Record, presented by Jonathan Dimbleby and John Craven (167688)

2.00 Eastenders Omnibus edition (1) (175738)

3.00 Columbo: Murder by the Book The scruffy sleuth cannot resist the challenge of a so-called perfect murder. Starring Peter Falk and Jack Cassidy, directed by Steven Spielberg (1308910) 4.10 Cartoon (2353397)

4.20 Blueback presented by Sue Lawley. Includes an investigation into claims that DEF II's Portage misled young people taking part in the programme, and a look at why Tomorrow's World is losing viewers. (1806552)

5.00 The Clothes Show with Jeff Banks, Caryn Franklin and Brenda Emmanus (1421229)

5.25 Antiques Roadshow Hugh Scully and his team of experts are at the Arts Centre of Warwick University. (1830362) (1433574)

6.00 News with Martin Smith Weather (748910)

6.25 Songs of Praise from the Roman Catholic cathedral of St Mary and St Helen, Brentwood. (1830362) (152852)

7.00 As Time Goes By Judi Dench and Geoffrey Palmer superb as the former lovers who meet again in middle age. With Moira Fraser and Paul Chapman. (1830362) (152852)



Colonial history: Spriggs, Hordern with McShane (7.30pm)

7.30 Lorelei Comedy drama starring Ian McShane as the dodgy antiques dealer, this week involved with a flag from the American War of Independence which is claimed by a number of people. With Michael Hordern and Elizabeth Spriggs. (1830362) (152852)

8.25 So Haunt Me Paul A. Mendelson's laborious comedy starring Miriam Karlin as a Jewish ghost haunting her old house and playing havoc with the lives of new owners George Costigan and Tessa Reade. (1830362) (152852)

8.55 One Foot in the Grave More hilarious melancholy from the incomparable Richard Wilson. Victor and Margaret (Annette Crosbie) are invited to Victor's cousin's sixtieth birthday party and Margaret collapses with exhaustion. (1830362) (152852)

9.25 News with Martin Smith Weather (748910)

9.40 Mastermind presented by Magnus Magnusson from Arundel Castle. The specialist subjects are Charles II, British athletics since 1945, Gerard Manley Hopkins and Dietrich Bonhoeffer (152213)

10.10 Heart of the Matter Tell Me the Truth. Should a doctor hide the truth from a patient? (152213)

10.45 What Shall We Tell the Children? Parents' guide to teaching their children the facts of life (152213)

11.05 Famously Pleasant Lord Wetherill remembers his Urdu. (1830362) (152852)

11.10 Doogie Howser M.D. Adventures of a teenage medical genius (152213) (1830362) (152852)

11.35 This Country's Rockin' Rock 'n' roll country music from Pontiac, Michigan (1830362) (152852)

12.25am Weather (3674137)

BBC2

6.40 Open University: Pure Maths - Maps (4705945) 7.05 Designs for Living (1818585) 7.30 Children's Drawings (4974955) 7.55 The Changing Experience of Education (5711823) 8.45 Open Forum (1758485)

9.10 Christopher Crocodile (1) (1831804) 9.15 The Animals of Farming Wood (1) (1830362) 9.40 Time Busters. Fantasy adventure game (1830362) 10.05 Teenage Minded Hero (1830362) (1830362) 10.30 Midsomer Murders and Her Merry Men (1) (1830362) (1830362) 10.55 Blue Peter Omnibus (1) (1830362) (1830362) 11.45 The O-Zone featuring Thea Thea (1) (1830362) (1830362)

12.00 Thunderbirds Science fiction adventures (1) (1830362) (1830362) 12.50 The Natural World. Series on the influence of tribal values on Western civilisation (1830362) (1830362)

2.00 Regional Westminster Programmes (1830362) (1830362) 2.30 Millennium: Tribal Wisdom and the Modern World. Series on the influence of tribal values on Western civilisation (1830362) (1830362)

3.30 Snooker Further coverage of the Benson and Hedges Masters from Wembley Conference Centre (1830362) (1830362)

4.35 Sky Sunday The world championships from Japan (1737303)

5.10 Rugby Special Highlights of yesterday's five nations' championship matches between Wales and England and France v Scotland (1830362) (1830362)

6.10 The Natural World: Ice Fox The story of two Arctic fox families battling a merciless northern winter. (1830362) (1830362)

7.00 The Money Programme John Penryce reports on the attempts to privatise Russia's heavy industries (1830362) (1830362)

7.40 The Adventurers: Respect for the Midland Bank A year in the life of a venture capital fund. (1830362) (1830362)

8.20 Dancing: Dance Centre Stage Miranda Richardson narrates the series on global dance culture (1830362) (1830362)

9.20 Did You See...? 7.20 Jeremy Paxman and his guests. Jack Lawrence, Imelda Staunton and Zaida West-Meads, review One Foot in the Grave, Dear America: Letters Home from Vietnam and The Good Sex Guide (1) (1830362) (1830362)



Fatal attraction: Italian temptress Sophia Diaz (10.00pm)

10.00 Screen Two: Fanny Fatale

CHOICE: A rum ball comedy by Simon Gray chases the disruptive effect of a fetching young Italian woman on a sleepy Devon village. Maddalena (Sophia Diaz) comes to England after the death of her parents and rushes into marriage with Davey (Jason Durr), whose family runs the village shop. The marriage is a disaster but Maddalena has a remarkable knack of stirring passions in others. The outcome is a chain of comic deaths unrivaled since Kind Hearts and Coronets. Gray's comic touch is uneven, mixing reliable wit with sexist gags that would hardly be acceptable in West End fare. His serious point, about the destructive power of sexual repression, is well made but becomes a shade laboured. Colin Welland enjoys himself as an aging teacher but Simon Callow's dour vicar steals the show. (1830362) (1830362)

11.15 Screen One: Action from the Benson and Hedges Masters (774281)

12.15am Later with Jools Holland With John Cleese, de Bascovich and Mary Coughlin (1) (1830362) (1830362)

Video: The Numbers and the Video PlusCode

The numbers next to each TV programme are the Video PlusCode numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlusCode handset. VideoPlusCode can be used with most video tapes. In the VideoPlusCode for the programme you wish to record. For more details call VideoPlus 0833 121 200 (only charged at 40p per minute plus 30p off-peak). Write to VideoPlus, Acorn Ltd, 5 Ivory House, Harnham Road, Salisbury SP1 1TN. VideoPlus (TM), PlusCode (TM) and Video Recorder are trademarks of General Marketing Ltd.

ITV LONDON

6.00 GMTV (1830362) 6.25 Disney Club presented by Richard Orlford, Andrea Boardman and Paul Hardy. The guest includes Mike Rosen and, providing the music, the Adventurers (1830362) (1830362)

10.45 Link Disabled people give their views on The Waterdance. The controversial film about spinally injured young men (Teletext) (1830362) (1830362)

11.00 Morning Worship from Greenwich to celebrate the annual Women's World Day of Prayer (1830362) (1830362)

12.00 Package Pilgrims Anne Gregg is in Tuscany (Teletext) (1830362) (1830362)

12.30 CrossTalk presented by Peter Allen. The guest is Brian Hitchen, editor of the Daily Star (1830362) (1830362)

1.00 News and weather (1830362) (1830362) 1.10 Walden. Brian Walden asks Paddy Ashdown, MP, whether it is time to reform the monarchy (1830362) (1830362)

2.00 Bright Lights, Big City Gavin Whelan continues his history of entertainment in the capital. His guest is John Norder, once manager of the Trocadero Elephant and Castle (1830362) (1830362)

2.30 The Match Live coverage from Selhurst Park of the Coca-Cola Cup semi-final, first leg game between Crystal Palace and Arsenal. The commentators are Brian Moore and Ron Atkinson (1830362) (1830362)

5.00 Wish You Were Here...? Reports from Turkey, Belgium and Edinburgh (1) (1830362) (1830362)

5.30 Bullseye Darts and general knowledge quiz game presented by Jim Bowen (1830362) (1830362)

6.00 London Tonight with Fiona Foster. Sport and weather (1830362) (1830362)

6.25 News and weather (1830362) (1830362) 6.30 Film: The Goonies (1985) starring Sean Astin and Josh Brolin. Sluggish fantasy adventure, based on a story by Steven Spielberg, about a group of children who go in search of pirate treasure. Directed by Richard Donner. (Teletext) (1830362) (1830362)

8.25 News and weather (1830362) (1830362) 8.55 News and weather (1830362) (1830362)

9.20 Agatha Christie's Poirot: The Case of the Missing Will. The dapper detective investigates the death of a wealthy misogynist. Starring David Suchet, Hugh Fraser and, in a welcome return, Philip Jackson as the lugubrious Inspector Japp (Teletext) (1830362) (1830362)

10.20 News and weather (1830362) (1830362) 10.30 Film: The Last Emperor (1987). Includes a sketch about the first matador from Leeds (1830362) (1830362)



Snappy work: the photographer Annie Leibovitz (10.50pm)

10.50 The South Bank Show: Annie Leibovitz

CHOICE: A profile of the American photographer Annie Leibovitz presents a career of two halves. Leibovitz made her name snapping pop stars for Rolling Stone. Her work was raw-edged and spontaneous, catching her subjects on the hoof. It constitutes a vivid record of the American youth culture of the 1970s. Then she joined Vanity Fair and started servicing the fashionably famous. Her photographs became posed and contrived. Her most famous picture is of the naked and pregnant film actress Demi Moore. The programme logs the follow-up assignment, featuring Moore in body paint, which took three days and cost a fortune. A critic from the Washington Times suggests that Leibovitz has become part of the celebrity public relations machine. Makers of television arts programmes, of course, face a similar danger (1830362) (1830362)

11.50 Entertainment: Holy Joe's. A profile of Dave Tomkinson, who has set up a place of worship in the back room of a Brighton pub (1830362) (1830362)

12.00am Cue the Music Jimmy Hendrix in concert at Berkeley (1830362) (1830362)

1.25am TXF Pop music charts from the continent (7400243)

2.25am Summerrock The band Triple Rock in concert at the Roskilde Festival (1830362) (1830362)

3.30am Soccer James Wattan v Ronnie O'Sullivan in a European League match (1830362) (1830362)

5.30am ITV Morning News (1830362) (1830362)

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Trans World Sport (1830362) 6.55 Split and Hercules (1830362) 7.05 Widgeit (1) (1830362) 7.30 Sandokan Animation (1830362) 8.00 The Hammerman (1120200) 8.25 The Finder. Drama about a time-travelled ten-year-old (1830362) (1830362) 8.50 Dennis (1) (1830362) 9.00 The Adventures of Tintin (1830362) (1830362) 9.45 Flipper. Adventures of a friendly dolphin (1830362) (1830362) 10.15 The Miraculous Melopée. Australian fantasy drama (1830362) (1830362) 10.45 Land of the Giants. The space travellers are captured by a lairground gypsy who wants to put them on show (1830362) (1830362) 11.45 Little House on the Prairie. The story of a close-knit Kansas family during the Depression years. Starring Michael Landon and Hermione Baddeley (1830362) (1830362) 12.00 Football Rules. Last in the series (1830362) (1830362) 12.55 Gazzza's Soccer School. Paul Gascoigne, the flautist footballer, displays his skills to youngsters at a soccer school in Wembley (1) (1830362) (1830362)

1.10 Film: The Pirates of Penzance (1830362) starring Kevin Cline, Angela Lansbury and Linda Ronstadt. Starring Papp's Broadway production of the Gilbert and Sullivan opera, Italy directed by Wilford Leach (1830362) (1830362)

3.15 Film: China Seas (1935, b/w). Lively high seas drama starring Clark Gable, Jean Harlow and Rosalind Russell. The captain of a cargo ship carrying gold to Hong Kong has to contend with pirates and two former girlfriends. Directed by Tay Garnett (1830362) (1830362)

4.50 Song of the Prairie (b/w). Jiri Tinka's puppet parody of Howard Keel and other stars of musicals (1830362) (1830362)

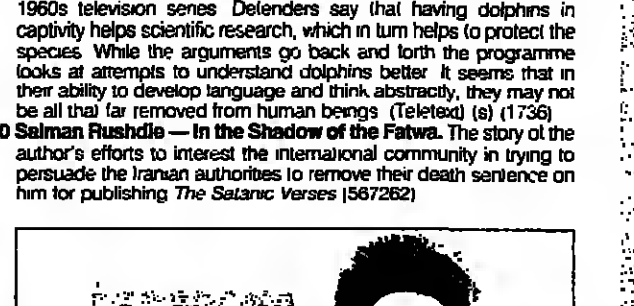
5.10 News summary and weather (1830362) (1830362) 5.15 High Interest: On the Buses. With London's red buses up for sale, what lessons can be learnt from Manchester's dispute with the government over the disposal of its bus company? (1830362) (1830362) 6.00 Moviechat. Cardiff cinema-goers review Stay Tuned, Folks and The Living End (1830362) (1830362)

6.30 The Wonder Years American comedy series. (Teletext) (1830362) (1830362)

7.00 Fragile Earth: Dolphin Dilemma

CHOICE: The dolphin's intelligence and high spirits make it one of the most appealing of all animals. More than 400 are kept in captivity in the United States alone, providing entertainment for the public and sustaining a billion dollar industry. But is this being cruel to the dolphins, a form of imprisonment which induces stress and leads to premature death? The critics are led by Rick O'Barry, whose views have since a U-turn since his trained Flipper for the 1960s television series. Defenders say that having dolphins in captivity helps scientific research, which in turn helps to protect the species. While the arguments go back and forth the programme looks at attempts to understand dolphins better. It seems that in their ability to develop language and think abstractly, they may not be all that far removed from human beings. (Teletext) (1830362) (1830362)

8.00 Salman Rushdie - In the Shadow of the Fatwa. The story of the author's efforts to interest the international community in trying to persuade the Iranian authorities to remove their death sentence on him for publishing The Satanic Verses (1830362) (1830362)



Boy emperor: Richard Yu as three-year-old Pu Yi (8.45pm)

8.45 Film: The Last Emperor (1987)

CHOICE: Bernardo Bertolucci's handsome biopic of China's last imperial ruler won even more Oscars than Ben Hur and set a new record (nine) for a single film. It makes its first appearance on network television in a version prepared by the director. The action covers more than 60 years, starting with Pu Yi coming to the throne as a child of three and ending with his twilight days as a gardener in the China of Mao Tse-tung. Bertolucci eschews a straightforward narrative for a flashback structure which does not always help comprehension. It is still an impressive film, with a strong, unshowy performance by John Lone as Pu Yi and good support from Peter Onorato as the English tutor. But the real star is the director of photography, Vittorio Storaro, who loses no opportunity of dazzling with his sumptuous images. (Teletext) (1830362) (1830362)

11.45 Film: Carmen (1983). Carlos Saura's over-the-top baller version of Bizet's opera, starring Laura del Sol, Antonio Gades and Paco de Lucia. In Spanish with English subtitles (1830362) (1830362)

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA

As London except: 12.30-1.00 Food Cuts (1830362) 2.00-2.30 The Mumpsters (1830362) 3.00-3.30 The Village Show (1830362) 4.00-4.30 The Village Show (1830362) 4.30-5.00 The Village Show (1830362) 5.00-5.30 The Village Show (1830362) 5.30-6.00 The Village Show (1830362) 6.00-6.30 The Village Show (1830362) 6.30-7.00 The Village Show (1830362) 7.00-7.30 The Village Show (1830362) 7.30-8.00 The Village Show (1830362) 8.00-8.30 The Village Show (1830362) 8.30-9.00 The Village Show (1830362) 9.00-9.30 The Village Show (1830362) 9.30-10.00 The Village Show (1830362) 10.00-10.30 The Village Show (1830362) 10.30-11.00 The Village Show (1830362) 11.00-11.30 The Village Show (1830362) 11.30-12.00 The Village Show (1830362) 12.00-12.30 The Village Show (1830362) 12.30-1.00 The Village Show (1830362)

BORDER

As London except: 12.30-1.00 Gardeners' World (1830362) 2.00-2.30 The Village Show (1830362) 3.00-3.30 The Village Show (1830362) 4.00-4.30 The Village Show (1830362) 5.00-5.30 The Village Show (1830362) 5.30-6.00 The Village Show (1830362) 6.00-6.30 The Village Show (1830362) 6.30-7.00 The Village Show (1830362) 7.00-7.30 The Village Show (1830362) 7.30-8.00 The Village Show (1830362) 8.00-8.30 The Village Show (1830362) 8.30-9.00 The Village Show (1830362) 9.00-9.30 The Village Show (1830362) 9.30-10.00 The Village Show (1830362) 10.00-10.30 The Village Show (1830362) 10.30-11.00 The Village Show (1830362) 11.00-11.30 The Village Show (1830362) 11.30-12.00 The Village Show (1830362) 12.00-12.30 The Village Show (1830362) 12.30-1.00 The Village Show (1830362)

CENTRAL

As London except: 12.30-1.00 Gardeners' World (1830362) 2.00-2.30 The Village Show (1830362) 3.00-3.30 The Village Show (1830362) 4.00-4.30 The Village Show (1830362) 5.00-5.30 The Village Show (1830362) 5.30-6.00 The Village Show (1830362) 6.00-6.30 The Village Show (1830362) 6.30-7.00 The Village Show (1830362) 7.00-7.30 The Village Show (1830362) 7.30-8.00 The Village Show (1830362) 8.00-8.30 The Village Show (1830362) 8.30-9.00 The Village Show (1830362) 9.00-9.30 The Village Show (1830362) 9.30-10.00 The Village Show (1830362) 10.00-10.30 The Village Show (1830362) 10.30-11.00 The Village Show (1830362) 11.00-11.30 The Village Show (1830362) 11.30-12.00 The Village Show (1830362) 12.00-12.30 The Village Show (1830362) 12.30-1.00 The Village Show (1830362)

GRANADA

As London except: 12.30-1.00 What the Fish Say (1830362) 2.00-2.30 The Mumpsters (1830362) 3.00-3.30 The Village Show (1830362) 4.00-4.30 The Village Show (1830362) 5.00-5.30 The Village Show (1830362) 5.30-6.00 The Village Show (1830362) 6.00-6.30 The Village Show (1830362) 6.30-7.00 The Village Show (1830362) 7.00-7.30 The Village Show (1830362) 7.30-8.00 The Village Show (1830362) 8.00-8.30 The Village Show (1830362) 8.30-9.00 The Village Show (1830362) 9.00-9.30 The Village Show (1830362) 9.30-10.00 The Village Show (1830362) 10.00-10.30 The Village Show (1830362) 10.30-11.00 The Village Show (1830362) 11.00-11.30 The Village Show (1830362) 11.30-12.00 The Village Show (1830362) 12.00-12.30 The Village Show (1830362) 12.30-1.00 The Village Show (1830362)

ITV WEST

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MERIDIAN

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SATELLITE

SKY ONE

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One man's meat is a spicy dish

Lynne Truss digests the twists of the food chain from mushrooms in Moscow to llamas in London



FOR some considerable time now, a mysterious poster campaign has been drawing one's attention at the traffic lights. In a general way, it's got something to do with meat. "Meat to live" it says, and is presumably intended to encourage weedy vegetarians to think twice. But instead of being a picture of a pork chop or something, wrapped in bloody newspaper, it features a bronzed athletic person running through the surf of a deep blue sea, and there is no meat in sight. "Where's the beef?" one is therefore entitled to ask. This chap is not gnawing on a salami; he wipes no grease from his chin. Aside from the fact that (ha, ha) his appearance pleasantly brings a little water to the mouth, he apparently has no bearing on meat whatsoever.

I mention it because any weedy vegetarians who tuned in to Wednesday's *The Mushroom Picker* (BBC2) hoping for new recipes for risotto con porcini will have found themselves on Thursday morning staring at that "Meat to live" poster with new, and wilder, eyes. It's him! He's the meat! It's a ghastly joke! Aargh! This dark and hilarious Moscow-based first episode of a three-part drama serial was admittedly not the first piece of fiction ever to draw parallels between meat-eating and sex, or meat-eating and power, but for comic-rapaciousness, broad hints at cannibalism, and unapologetic showing of raw bloody flesh on wooden chopping-blocks, it may be unrivalled in the annals of TV.

The story concerned the unlikely coupling of Clea and Kostya, played with gusto by Lynsey Baxter and Nigel Terry. Clea is a thin,

TV REVIEW

pale, naive, sex-starved English publishing assistant, taken unwillingly to Brezhnev's Moscow, and set up as a vice-bride mugging. Kostya, by contrast, is "the man with the meat", which is an expression you can honestly take how you like. You can't help warming to Kostya, by the way, because he is charisma in a fur hat: when he makes his entrance at Moscow parties, dumping down a carcass in a sack, everyone cheers and whistles. That he is obsessed with Western food is obvious from the outset. "I'm English," whispers Clea, apologetically. "I respect England," he says deliberately, giving her a quick up-and-down appraisal. "All the best bits of meat come from England."

Who gets eaten? Possibly no one. But when Clea decides to move in with Kostya she discovers two very important facts of life. First, that if you tie your head in a brown scarf it does not necessarily improve your appearance; and second, that if your new boyfriend's life's work is a history of Russian "culinary atrocities" (proudly compiled in a huge leather-bound scrapbook reminiscent of a family Bible), you will be helpless to talk him out of it. A man has to have a hobby, and this is his.

"The history of Russian cuisine" is one of tear- and curm-baleism. Kostya declares passionately (in a rather cute understated Russian accent). Excitedly he turns the large thick pages, showing pictures of the human anatomy divided into joints. Clea does one of her pole-axed reaction shots with a little gasp and whimper (she is terribly good at these), and then tells him he has a duty to Russia to publish what he knows.

But he is ahead of her. "I am Rasshiat!" he laments, with Slavic emphasis. "In the stow-mack Zet iz my trogody!"

You will notice I have left out all the sex stuff. It's just that food is ultimately more interesting, and is better at keeping you alive. Clea herself discovers this — that, whereas in the West one might buy sex with food, in Moscow in extremis, you buy food with sex. Poor Clea. She is obliged to "lend" Kostya to their blonde far neighbour, who works on a meat counter, and then eat the meals that result. It is degrading, obviously. And she is dead suspicious of the meat, given Kostya's unusual interests. Moreover, while the infernal bargain is being driven by Kostya indoors, Clea walks the grey snowy streets in her scarf, the very picture of "I Am a Fugitive From a Food Chain."

I don't know what happens next. I tried to buy the book (by Zinoviy Zinik), but it was a fool's errand, because there is a shortage, and it is not available until next week. I am keen to know whether Kostya ought to be a larger man — not because anything is lacking from Nigel Terry's truly expansive performance, but because it strikes me that our leading actors (aside from Alfred Molina) are simply too thin to play Russians. "Here comes Platonov!" yell the assembled Chekhovian company in theatre productions. "He has put on weight over the winter! He has got quite fat! Look at the girl..." And so on, then, on walks someone really thin, like Ian McKellen or Stephen Rea.

Oh well. Back at the food chain, Molly Dineen's terrific four-part series about London Zoo, *The Ark* (Tuesdays, BBC2), reached the three-quarter stage this week, and the only disappointment was that it



Sex, lies and a nice bit of rump: Lynsey Baxter and Nigel Terry make a meal of Moscow nights — but whose flesh are they eating?

had run out of resonant Darwinian tooth-and-claw titles. We have had "Survival of the Fittest" and "Natural Selection", and unfortunately there aren't any more. But by now the viewers have probably caught the irony, which is that while the zoo's dumb animals are passive and accepting (and sometimes pose with tears in their eyes), the zoo's management caught such in the mud when the economic climate changed, is struggling and lashing in its ruthless will to survive.

Molly Dineen's wry editing underlines mildly but repeatedly how absurd this is. She shows you a bespectacled Director of Opera-

tions stating: "In the 1980s, every animal must earn its keep in the market-place," and cuts straight to a shot of a llama looking vacant. The connection is obvious. Look, an animal earning its keep in the market-place. Or hang on, is it an animal not earning its keep in the market-place? Blimey, how would a look different?

I can hardly believe this is only a four-part series. When it is over, I will still need to see Brian the elephant keeper, and Dave the hind-man. The keepers are the undisputed heroes of the series: marvellous how old memories of Johnny Morris (*Animal Magic*)

can be eradicated so easily. It turns out that zoo keepers are quite grown-up and don't poke fun at the animals a bit.

This week's programme, "A Political Animal", concerned the arrival of a giant panda (interpreted by cynical observers as a last-gasp bid for gate-receipts), and also an insurrectionist plot designed to save the zoo's breeding programmes and stop the slide towards pure fun-fair. A worthy aim, obviously, especially when anyone will tell you that children dislike the sight of caged animals anyway, and so don't come to the zoo. Promise to show them some near-

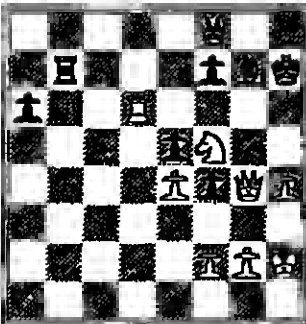
extinct snails breeding in a Perspex box, on the other hand, and they might be open to persuasion.

But that's just my theory. I went along recently to Regent's Park and naively asked for the bears, but they don't do bears any more. "They got stereotypical in their behaviour," someone explained in this week's programme. It was an arresting phrase. Presumably it meant they were unhappy. Because if it meant they kept saying "Smarter than the average bear. Boo. Boo." and stealing pic-a-nic baskets, they would have been kept on. It would have been called earning your keep in the market-place.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Wolff — Bronstein, Wijk aan Zee 1992. White has successfully infiltrated the black kingside, and his pieces are poised menacingly close to the king. How did he finish off?



Send your answer on a postcard with your name and address to: *The Times*, 1 Fettering Street, London E1 9AN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday next week will win a British Chess Magazine book. The answer and the winners will be printed in *The Times* on the following Saturday.

Solution to last Saturday's competition: 1 Rxf8+. The winners are: D. Pugh, Kingshorpe; R. Connors, London NW2; R.F. Pallet, Slough.

WORD-WATCHING

By PHILIP HOWARD

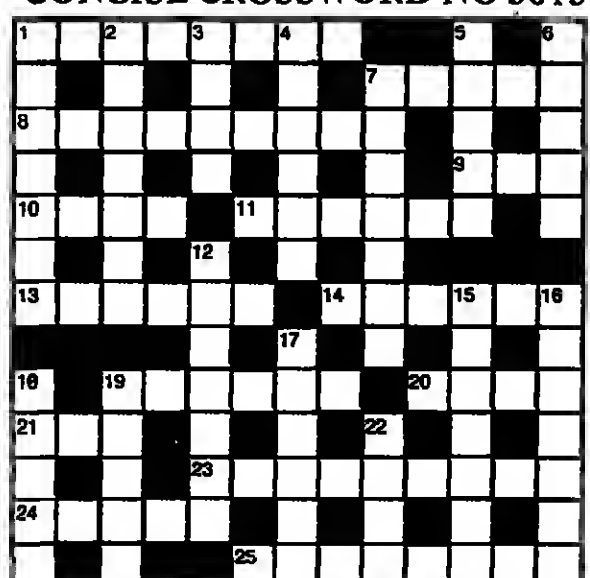
SYMONDITE

- a. A small warship
- b. Potassium chloride
- c. An Anabaptist heretic

DENN

- a. A woodland pasture
- b. Grendel's lair
- c. An Anglo-Saxon rune

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 3015



ACROSS

- 1 Word for word (8)
- 7 Circus joker (5)
- 8 Shocking surprise (9)
- 9 Set limit (3)
- 10 First man (4)
- 11 Arouse (6)
- 13 Ditch (6)
- 14 Persevere (4,2)
- 19 Crowd together (6)
- 20 Inflame (4)
- 21 Set down (3)
- 23 New York financial centre (9)
- 24 Humorous (5)
- 25 Post abandoner (8)

DOWN

- 1 Pulsating (7)
- 2 Destructive behaviour (7)
- 3 As well (4)
- 4 Mountaineer's snow pick (3,3)
- 5 Compulsion (5)
- 6 Suffolk concert makings (5)
- 7 Assorted (7)
- 12 Military school (7)
- 15 Door knocking noise (7)
- 16 Companion (7)
- 17 Sudden descent (6)
- 18 Frank and hearty (5)
- 19 Laughing mammal (5)
- 22 Window glass (4)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 3014

ACROSS: 7 Soli 8 In action 9 Hurrah 10 Tetter 11 Hint 12 Roll call 15 Intrepid 17 Prow 18 Plumes 21 Bunker 22 Transfer 23 Loot

DOWN: 1 Location 2 Claret 3 Higher up 4 Part 5 Static 6 Mole 13 Ladybird 14 Loose box 16 Remind 17 Peuple 19 Lark 20 Safe

CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS: For mail order details of all Times Crossword Books and The Times Computer Crossword software with help levels (runs on most PCs), call Akom Ltd on (01) 852 4575 (24 hrs) or LPS Computer on 0202 890 000. Just released - the First Book of The Times Jumbo Concise Crosswords, £5.99 inc p&hp, from Akom Ltd, 51, Manor Road, London, SE13 5QW

Tearful questions of attribution

Antiques Roadshow

Tomorrow, BBC1, 5.25pm

Huge disappointment all round when it is discovered that the two Old Master drawings uncovered in the recent Kingsbridge edition of the *Roadshow* are not the work of Titian and Veronese, after all. Will they be returned to their owner with "Beware Misattribution" scrawled on them in red pen? Peter Nahum, the expert who said he would report back when he had done more research, now regretfully ascribes the pictures to lesser artists, and the hopeful punter must dry his eyes. Oh, the drama of it all. I don't know whether to laugh or cry.

Film 93 Special

Monday, BBC1, 10.10pm

Barry Norman interviews Robert Redford and is presumably too polite to say what everyone else is thinking — viz. "Haven't you aged?" — yet somehow the famous golden-boy physiognomy is never far from the front line of questioning. Peg for

TV PREVIEW

this special audience is Redford's latest project as director, *A River Runs Through It*, a film about religion and fishing.

Timewatch: The Stolen Child

Wednesday, BBC2, 8.10pm

The distressing story of the 200,000 Polish children taken by Nazis for use as German "breeding stock" gets an airing here, with Catriene Clay's film concentrating on Alojzy Twardowski, whose upbringing was so dramatically interrupted by the politics of nationality (twice) that he makes anybody else's identity crisis look like a picnic with cake. Abducted from Poland in 1942 at the age of four, he learned to forget Polish, love his wealthy German parents, and idolise Hitler; then, at 15, he was reclaimed by his Polish mother, and had the Nazis knocked out of him again. Nowadays, not surprisingly, he professes no nationality at all.

Damned in the USA

Wednesday, Channel 4, 11.20pm

Repeat of Paul Yule's most acclaimed 1991 film about pressure-group censorship of the arts in the USA, with a special new prologue about the lawsuit brought against Channel 4 itself by the Rev Donald Wildmon of Mississippi when the documentary was first shown in the US. A participant in the film (speaking as the head of the influential moral watchdog, American Family Association), Mr Wildmon objected that Yule had included excerpts from the "obscene" artworks — photographs by Robert Mapplethorpe, and so on — that he had spoken about and deplored. In Channel 4's defence, it was pointed out that Mr Wildmon had himself sent copies of these images to the American media when organising his campaigns. Touché. A very provocative and witty film, then, *Damned in the USA* trails all kinds of right-on credentials about withstanding censorship. So why is it to be broadcast so late at night?

Everything and then some

Caitlin Moran meets a band that defies definition



MANY pale young lads of a certain age spend a lot of their time lying on their beds and wishfully dreaming about putting a band together. Obviously the band would have to be sumptuously funky, and, of course, all your work would have to be critically acclaimed, commercially successful and yet painfully hip, all at the same time. Pale young lads, in essence, would like to be the Stereo MCs. And the Stereo MCs want to be... a television station?

"I wanna see dreams and nose-rings and everything on my television," says Bob Birch, lead singer with the Stereos. "And the only time you ever get to see people from different countries on television is when it's some kind of crisis — you never get to see them in ordinary settings doing ordinary things. You just get starving Africans and 'looting black Americans'. Everybody's just kept in a little box with a label on it. I want to have television programmes with respect."

Birch looks distinctly Dickensian — occasionally during the interview I have to resist the urge to call him Fagin and burst out into a squeaky rendition of "Food for the Gods". Birch and Nick Hallam, also known as The Head, are the hard core, the firm base, that the glittery pagoda of the Stereo MCs is built on. An edifice put together with en-



Self-taught: the Stereo MCs learnt about music from records bought in junk shops

thusiasm, love, determination, and The Head's former home. The Head had a really nice flat, see, that he was quite fond of. Handily, so was a local property developer, who, in a fit of generosity and desperation, came round to the Head's flat with a suitcase containing £1,000, which he was willing to donate to a very worthy cause — The Head — if he would just care to move out. The Head accepted and invested in a recording studio. And lo! in the west of London, Gee Street, home of the Stereo MCs, was born.

Birch says, "Music is a lot to do with your brain and colours your view. I used to run around doing stupid things" — from the way he says this I assume he doesn't mean just putting incorrect postcodes on letters and failing to re-fold jumpers he'd tried on in Benetton — "and music has changed my mind a lot, made me mellow out. We used to go around junk shops buying 20p records, and edu-

cated ourselves about music that way. Funk, soul, gospel, rap, jazz and dub records. A bit of everything, really."

The Stereo MCs are not a straightforward funk band, nor a fairly uncomplicated jazz/hip-hop band, nor a reasonably simplistic soul/rap/jazz/funk fusion outfit. They're the New Jazz-rap-rock-gospel-dub-funk-hip-hop-glittery-pop sound, known as the Stereo MCs for short, and there isn't anything else like them.

"We haven't come out of any scene," Birch confirms. "We're not from the rap scene, or the pop scene, or the jazz scene, or the rock scene: we've just been under the water a while and, like, someone threw out a life-jacket and we popped up to the surface." "Popped" is a bit of an understatement. "Exploded" in a vaguely tremendous way" would be more accurate. The stomping ass-wriggle of "Step It Up" assaulted the Top 20 in early 1993, leaving it all weak and shaly; then the album *Connected* soared to

number two in the album charts, leaving the competition ten pounds lighter and with a slick sheen of sweat on their foreheads.

Andrea, one of the three deliriously extravagant backing singers, pipes up. "Before I got into music I was so shy. I could never look anyone in the eye. I'd either stare down at the ground or up at the sky. People used to call me The Swan: my neck was always curved."

GUILTY SECRETS

Zelda West-Meads of Relate



"I do have a motive for watching *Drop The Dead Donkey*. As I'm constantly dealing with the press in my work, it's all the more amusing for me to see them from the other side. It's gloriously bitchy and a brilliant example of the worst aspects of office politics. All the staff are undermining each other all the time — I wouldn't like to be on the receiving end of their behaviour. The humour is very cruel."

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Caitlin Moran on what to wear, page 11